ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

ACTIVITY REPORT

of the National Assembly
of Québec

2008-2009

www.assnat.qc.ca

Cover illustration:

Crown of fleurs de lys and acanthus leaves supporting a ring of lights informing the public when the National Assembly is sitting.

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QUÉBEC

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ACTIVITY REPORT

This publication was prepared in collaboration with the senior management and the personnel of all the administrative units of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise specified, the information in this activity report covers the National Assembly's activities from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

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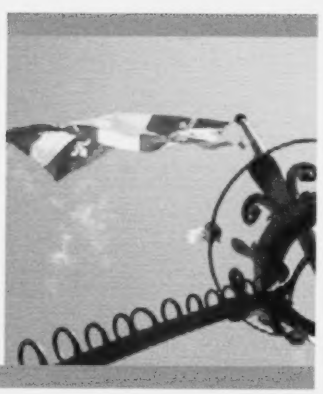


HIGHGLIGHTS
2008-2009

FROM THE 38TH TO 39TH LEGISLATURE

The 38th Legislature of the National Assembly was dissolved on November 5, 2008 on the recommendation of the Premier of Québec, and a general election was called for December 8. The beginning of the 39th Legislature was a busy time for the personnel involved in welcoming the 125 candidates elected to the National Assembly, holding training sessions for them, organizing their swearing-in ceremonies and helping them set up their offices in the Parliament Building and in their constituencies.

François Gendron

TWO PRESIDENTS ELECTED

On July 14, 2008, Michel Bissonnet, the 42nd President (or Speaker) of the National Assembly since 1867, announced that he was resigning after serving in that office for slightly over five years. The Members of the National Assembly of the 38th Legislature held a vote to fill the vacancy when the Assembly resumed on October 21, 2008. The Member for Abitibi-Ouest, François Gendron, was elected President.

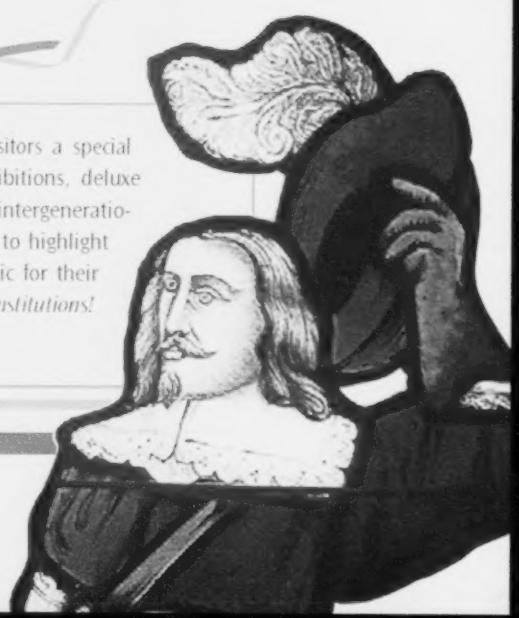
Then, on January 13, 2009, the first sitting day of the 39th Legislature, Yvon Vallières, Member for Richmond, was elected President by his peers.

Yvon Vallières

The Assembly celebrates the 400th anniversary of Québec City

As 2008 marked the 400th anniversary of Québec City, the National Assembly offered visitors a special program featuring 15 activities and publication launches. A new research chair, exhibitions, deluxe coffee-table books, open house days, conferences, thematic brunches, panel discussions, intergenerational mock parliaments, a new visitor centre—every aspect of the program was designed to highlight the pivotal events in the city's 400-year history. The Assembly wishes to thank the public for their participation in the festivities. *Together, we celebrated 400 years of political traditions and institutions!*

* For more on the activities held in 2008 after March 31 as part of this special program, look for Québec City's 400th anniversary logo throughout this report.



MEMBERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES IN THE FRANCOPHONIE MEET IN QUÉBEC CITY

Michel Bissonnet, the President of the National Assembly and First Vice-President of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), hosted the 34th Session of the APF from July 1 to 8, 2008. In a departure from custom, the annual Conference of Presiding Officers of La Francophonie was held concurrently. The annual APF session brings together Members of Parliaments and Assemblies from countries and communities that are partly or entirely French-speaking; attendance for 2008 set a record high, with over 50 sections and some 450 delegates.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TELEVISED BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

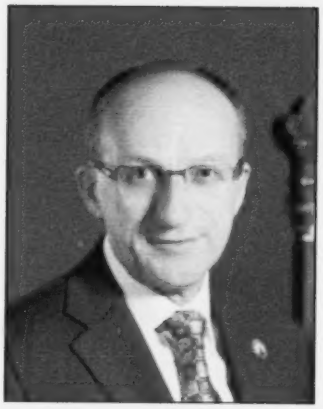
October 3, 2008, is an important date in the history of the Assembly television channel, as the Assembly's proceedings were aired live for the first time 30 years earlier. The Assembly channel celebrated this milestone with a full rebroadcast of the first televised Routine Proceedings. The channel also ran the first Question Period of each subsequent legislature, thus providing a survey of the political issues that have taken centre stage over the last three decades. Lastly, the anniversary provided an opportunity to show how far parliamentary broadcasting has come since those early years: today, the channel broadcasts most of the Assembly's parliamentary and institutional activities as well as high-quality in-house productions such as *Mémoires de députés*, a series of in-depth interviews with former MNAs.

A HISTORIC MOMENT: THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ADDRESSES QUÉBEC'S MNAs

On October 17, 2008, during a visit that coincided with the 12th Francophonie Summit, Nicolas Sarkozy wrote a new page in Québec's history by becoming the first President of the French Republic to address our elected representatives in the Chamber of the National Assembly.

Fatima Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President of the Assembly, presented Mr. Sarkozy with the President's Medal on behalf of all Québec parliamentarians. The French President's visit was but one of the events that made 2008 a richly celebratory year for Quebecers.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am very pleased to present the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec for 2008-2009*. Raising public awareness about the role of the Members, and bringing the institution closer to the people it serves, have been the Assembly's guiding lights in the past year. Accordingly, this year's report provides a choice opportunity to underline the activities both of the Members and of the Assembly's administrative personnel.

The report gives an account of the Members' work in the House and in committee, work that is the keystone of our democracy. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009, Assembly business was interrupted by the calling of a general election. The December 8, 2008 vote brought 37 newcomers to the House and, at the beginning of the 39th Legislature, my peers elected me President of the National Assembly. I am grateful to them for entrusting me with an office of such vital importance in our parliamentary system.

The year was further marked by the Assembly's special program to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Québec City. This is just another example—as are the parliamentary simulations and visitor activities—of how the Assembly has been stepping up its efforts to become ever more accessible to Quebecers.

> "the Assembly has been stepping up its efforts to become ever more accessible to Quebecers"

The report also testifies to the high-profile role the Assembly played on the international stage in 2008-2009, when it hosted major meetings such as those that brought together Francophonie parliamentarians and a number of other related events, all of which bear witness to the productive ties we have forged with other parliaments and with jurisdictions the world over.

It is my hope this tenth report will leave you with a fuller appreciation of the breadth and scope of the Assembly's achievements.

Yvon Vallières
President of the National Assembly of Québec

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

"a year that has once again contributed to raising the Assembly's visibility both at home and abroad."

I am proud to join with the President of the National Assembly in presenting this tenth activity report, which provides a review of the parliamentary business and achievements of the Assembly in the last fiscal year.

I would first of all like to thank the personnel of the Assembly for taking on the challenges of a most eventful year, challenges that arose not only from the work and special measures required by a general election, but also from the Assembly's role in commemorating Québec City's 400th anniversary.

The year 2008-2009, under the banner of the quatercentenary, was rich in activities held as part of a special program planned for the occasion. The Assembly celebrated this exceptional event in its own way by welcoming visiting dignitaries, launching flagship publications, holding exhibitions and hosting the 400th anniversary show.

This activity report thus brings the curtain down on what has been a singular year on all fronts, filled with parliamentary activities and festivities, a year that has once again contributed to raising the Assembly's visibility both at home and abroad.

François Côté

Secretary General of the National Assembly of Québec

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly and the Lieutenant-Governor form the Parliament of Québec. This Parliament assumes all the powers conferred on the Legislature of Québec (Act respecting the National Assembly).

MISSION

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility for debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also have the role of supervising the actions of the Government, particularly during Oral Questions and Answers, during consideration of the Government's estimates of expenditure and in discussions of matters of public interest. The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, which is called a "legislature," is provided for in the Constitution and may not exceed five years.

THE THREE POWERS OF THE QUÉBEC STATE

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws. Supervises the actions of the executive branch. Discusses matters of public interest.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State. Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative branch.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative branch. Decides whether a citizen or group has acted in accordance with the law.
Parliament	**Government**	**Courts**

By-elections

A by-election is held in an electoral division for the purpose of filling a vacancy arising from the resignation or death of a Member or further to a legal ruling. When a seat becomes vacant, a government order instituting the holding of an election must be forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer within six months of the first day of vacancy.

In accordance with a government order dated April 9, a by-election was held on May 12, 2008, in the electoral divisions of Pointe-Aux-Trembles, Hull and Bourget, at the outcome of which Nicole Léger (PQ), Maryse Gaudreault (QLP) and Maka Kotto (PQ) were declared elected by the Chief Electoral Officer. Another by-election was held in the electoral division of Jean-Talon on September 24 and won by Yves Bolduc (QLP).

Resignations

Five Members resigned in 2008–2009:

Roch Cholette (QLP) — Hull
First elected: November 30, 1998
Date of resignation: April 9, 2008

Philippe Couillard (QLP) — Jean-Talon
First elected: April 14, 2003
Date of resignation: June 25, 2008

Michel Bissonnet (QLP) — Jeanne-Mance–Viger
First elected: April 13, 1981
Date of resignation: September 24, 2008

Russell Copeman (QLP) — Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
First elected: September 12, 1994
Date of resignation: October 22, 2008

Mario Dumont (ADQ) — Rivière-du-Loup
First elected: September 12, 1994
Date of resignation: March 6, 2009

Members who changed political affiliation:

Two Members changed political affiliation in 2008:

Pierre-Michel Auger — Champlain
First elected: March 26, 2007
Date of change of affiliation: October 23, 2008
From Action démocratique du Québec to the Québec Liberal Party

André Riedl — Iberville
First elected: March 26, 2007
Date of change of affiliation: October 23, 2008
From Action démocratique du Québec to the Québec Liberal Party

Jean Leclerc, chair of the board of directors of the Société du 400e anniversaire de Québec, presented Michel Bissonnet, President of the National Assembly, with a Québec City 400th Anniversary commemorative medallion.

The President of the Assembly awarded the Québec City 400th Anniversary commemorative medallion

On July 2, 2008, Michel Bissonnet, President of the National Assembly, received a Québec City 400th Anniversary commemorative medallion from Jean Leclerc, board chair of the Société du 400e anniversaire de Québec, and Daniel Gélinas, the organization's CEO. They stressed Mr. Bissonnet's dedication and initiative in contributing to the 400th anniversary celebrations through a rich and varied program of popular and cultural events for the general public coupled with history and research initiatives. Mr. Bissonnet was also made Grand Officier of France's Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur on July 13, 2008.

Resignation of Mr. Bissonnet, President of the National Assembly

On July 14, 2008, Michel Bissonnet notified the Secretary General of the National Assembly of his immediate resignation as President of the National Assembly, a position he had held since 2003. He also resigned his office as Member in September 2008.

Election of the new President of the 38th Legislature

When work resumed with the first session of the 38th Legislature, parliamentarians elected their new President by secret ballot in accordance with the temporary rules adopted for the circumstance by the Members of the National Assembly. Two candidates ran for election, including one from the group forming the Government and the other from the second opposition group. On the first ballot, François Gendron, Member for Abitibi-Ouest, was declared elected President of the Québec National Assembly. This was the fourth time since 1999 that the President had been elected using this voting procedure.

Did you know?

The **secret ballot system** was also used for elections that took place on March 2, 1999, March 12, 2002, and May 8, 2007. According to the temporary rules adopted for each election, Members can become candidates for President by producing a nomination paper by noon the day before the sitting devoted to the election. If only one candidate runs for President, this candidate is declared elected.

DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On November 5, 2008, the Cabinet adopted two orders-in-council on the recommendation of the Premier. The first directed the dissolution of the National Assembly and the summoning of a new Assembly for January 13, 2009. The second requested that the Chief Electoral Officer hold a general election on December 8, 2008. The Lieutenant-Governor then signed the royal proclamations giving effect to the orders-in-council, thus ending the 38th Legislature.

Once the Assembly is dissolved, the Members cease to perform their duties, but the Ministers remain in office so long as their successors have not been appointed. The President and the three Vice-Presidents also remain in office until they are replaced by the new Assembly. As regards parliamentary proceedings, dissolution causes current procedural acts and bills that have not been passed to lapse.

The 39th Legislature

GENERAL ELECTION

In the general election held on December 8, 2008, Quebecers elected the 125 Members who would represent them during the 39th Legislature. Of this number, 37 were elected for the first time and 12 returned following an interruption in their parliamentary career. Of the 123 Members in office when the National Assembly was dissolved, 76 were reelected, 9 did not run again, and 38 were defeated. Following this general election, the membership of the National Assembly now stands as follows:

	Number of seats
Québec Liberal Party	66
Parti québécois	51
Action démocratique du Québec	7
Québec solidaire	1

CANADA

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC

PROCLAMATION

Royal Proclamation

The House Secretariat drafts royal proclamations, which are signed by the Lieutenant-Governor. These proclamations must strictly adhere to the content of decrees issued by the Cabinet and bear the seal of the province of Québec.

At the bottom of the letters patent, which must be signed by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Secretary General of the National Assembly indicates the words "By order" followed by his/her signature and publishes the content of the proclamations in the *Québec Official Gazette*.

Did you know?

Before sitting in the National Assembly, **Members must take two oaths of allegiance**. The first stems from the Constitution Act, 1867 and reads as follows: "I, (Member's name), do swear (or solemnly affirm), that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II."

The second, taken under the provisions of the Act respecting the National Assembly, reads as follows: "I, (Member's name), declare under oath that I will be loyal to the people of Québec and that I will perform the duties of Member honestly and justly in conformity with the constitution of Québec."

Resignation of the leader of the 2nd opposition group, Mario Dumont

On March 6, 2009, Mario Dumont, leader of Action démocratique du Québec and Member for Rivière-du-Loup, announced his resignation in a letter as both party leader and Member. Elected for the first time in 1994 as the Action démocratique du Québec Member for Rivière-du-Loup, he held this office until 2008, in addition to fulfilling the duties of Leader of the Official Opposition from April 4, 2007, to November 5, 2008.

The swearing-in of Members

The taking of the oath by the Members is one of the most important events in parliamentary life. It is the gateway to the most valuable privilege a Member may enjoy, that of freedom of expression and its corollary, parliamentary immunity in the National Assembly. This is a solemn act, a commitment on the honour of the person who takes the oath to be loyal to the authority, respect the will of the people and act honestly and justly for the benefit of his/her fellow citizens.

After having taken these oaths before the Secretary General of the Assembly, the Members sign the Oath Book of the National Assembly. They then receive the Member's medal, on the back of which is inscribed the oath of loyalty to the people of Québec, as well as the Member's lapel pin. The Members of the 39th Legislature took their oaths at five different ceremonies in December 2008 and January 2009.

The welcoming of Members

General elections mark the beginning of parliamentary life for newly elected candidates. Immediately following an election, the National Assembly sets a major initiative in motion to ensure Members adapt well to their new duties.

Following the general election of December 8, 2008, National Assembly staff contacted Members to provide them with information they would need for the decisions they would be required to make in the first weeks of their term of office.

Starting December 19, 2008, the Members, their spouses and their staff were invited to take part in hospitality activities and training sessions on the operation of the National Assembly, the organization of parliamentary proceedings, their work conditions and the services provided to them by the National Assembly.

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 39th Legislature

Following a general election, the Members must elect a new President, whose role is to chair the proceedings of the Assembly, administer its services and represent it in its relations with other parliaments. On January 13, 2009, Yvon Vallières, Member for Richmond, was elected President of the National Assembly. Three Vice-Presidents (two from the governing party and one from the Official Opposition) were elected: Fatima Houda-Pepin, Member for La Pinière; Jacques Chagnon, Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis; and François Gendron, Member for Abitibi-Ouest.

The roles of Members: legislators, monitors and intermediaries

The main role of Members is to participate in the legislative process. As legislators, they study, analyze, and vote on bills in the National Assembly. They exercise this role in several stages in both the Assembly and standing committees.

Members also have several means for monitoring the actions of the Government, including the opportunity to question Ministers on topics of current interest during Oral Questions and Answers and to examine the activities and management of departments and agencies in committee. They have a notable role to play when standing committees hold public consultations on major issues of the day.

In addition, Members play the role of intermediaries between citizens and the civil service. As representatives of the voters in their ridings, they defend their interests and explain their needs to the government.

JEAN CHAREST
Premier
Sherbrooke

MEMBERS

OF THE 39TH LEGISLATURE

FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTION OF DECEMBER 8, 2008

JACQUES P. DUPUIS
Government House Leader
Saint-Laurent

LINE BEAUCHAMP
Deputy Government House Leader
Bourassa-Sauvé

HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTRIN
Deputy Government House Leader
Verdun

PIERRE MOREAU
Chief Government Whip
Châteauguay

VINCENT AUCLAIR
Deputy Government Whip
Vimont

LUCIE CHARLEBOIS
Deputy Government Whip
Soulanges

LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN
Caucus Chair
D'Arcy McGee

PIERRE ARCAND
Mont-Royal

CLAUDE BACHAND
Arthabaska

RAYMOND BACHAND
Maskinongé

CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Kamouraska-Témiscouata

DANIEL BERNARD
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue

RAYMOND BERNIER
Montmorency

STEPHANIE BALLETTE
Huntingdon

MARGUERITE BLAIS
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne

YVES BOLDUC
Jean-Talon

JULIE BOULET
Laviolette

MARC CARRIÈRE
Chapleau

FRANCINE CHARBONNEAU
Mille-Îles

GERMAIN CHEVARIE
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

PIERRE CORBEIL
Abitibi-Est

MICHELLE COURCHESNE
Fabre

JEAN-PAUL DIAMOND
Maskinongé

ANDRÉ DROLET
Jean-Lesage

EMMANUEL DUBOURG
Viau

ROBERT DUTIL
Beauce-Sud

MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François

MARYSE GAUDREAULT
Hull

JOHANNE GONTHIER
Mégantic-Compton

SAM HAMAD
Louis-Hébert

PATRICK HUOT
Vanier

YOLANDE JAMES
Bertrand

MONIQUE JÉRÔME-FORGET
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

CHARLOTTE L'ÉCUYER
Pontiac

GILLES LEBOUILLIER
Iberville

LAURENT LESSARD
Frontenac

NORMAN MacMILLAN
Papineau

GEORGES MARCELLONET
Guyer

YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil

PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin

MICHEL MATTE
Portneuf

NICOLE MÉNARD
Laporte

NORBERT MORIN
Montmagny-L'Islet

NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
Bonaventure

GUY OUELLETTE
Chomedey

FRANÇOIS OUIMET
Marquette

ALAIN PAQUET
Laval-des-Rapides

PIERRE PARADIS
Brome-Missisquoi

MICHEL PIGEON
Charlesbourg

PIERRE REID
Orford

FILOMENA ROTIROTI
Jeanne-Mance-Viger

SERGE SIMARD
Dubuc

GERRY SKLAVOUNOS
Laurier-Dorion

DANIELLE ST-AMAND
Trois-Rivières

CHRISTINE ST-PIERRE
Acadie

LISE THÉRIAULT
Anjou

TONY TOMASSI
Lafontaine

STÉPHANIE VALLÉE
Gatineau

DOMINIQUE VIEN
Bellechasse

KATHLEEN WEIL
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

DAVID WHISSELL
Argenteuil

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

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2008

PAULINE MAROIS
Leader of the official opposition
Charlevoix

STEPHANE BÉDARD
Official Opposition House Leader
Chicoutimi

AGNÈS MAILTAIS
Deputy Official Opposition House Leader
Taschereau

NICOLE LÉGER
Chief Official Opposition Whip
Pointe-aux-Trembles

MARJOLAINE DUFOUR
Deputy Official Opposition Whip
René-Lévesque

MARTIN LEMAY
Caucus Chair
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques

JEAN-MARTIN AUSSANT
Nicolet-Yamaska

DENISE BEAUDOIN
Mirabel

LOUISE BEAUDOIN
Rivière-du-Loup

STÉPHANE BERGERON
Verchères

PASCAL BÉRUBÉ
Matane

YVES-FRANÇOIS BLANCHET
Drummond

CAMIL BOUCHARD
Vachon

ETIENNE-ALEXIS BOUCHER
Johnson

MARIE BOUILLÉ
Iberville

NOËLLA CHAMPAGNE
Champlain

BENOIT CHARETTE
Deux-Montagnes

ALEXANDRE CLOUTIER
Lac-Saint-Jean

CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand

PIERRE CURZI
Berthier

DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia

BERNARD DRAINVILLE
Marie-Victorin

LUC FERLAND
Ungava

SYLVAIN GAUDREAULT
Jonquière

RENÉ GAUVREAU
Groulx

NICOLAS GIRARD
Soulanges

VÉRONIQUE HIVON
Joliette

MAKA KOTTO
Bourget

LISETTE LAPOINTE
Crémazie

GUY LECLAIR
Beauharnois

FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Rousseau

MARIE MALAVOY
Labelle

SCOTT McKAY
L'Assomption

SYLVAIN PAGÉ
Labelle

ÉMILIEN PELLETIER
Saint-Hyacinthe

IRVIN PELLETIER
Rimouski

CLAUDE PINARD
Saint-Maurice

CAROLE POIRIER
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

DANIEL RATTHÉ
Blainville

FRANÇOIS REBELLO
La Prairie

LORRAINE RICHARD
Duplessis

MONIQUE RICHARD
Marguerite-D'Youville

GILLES ROBERT
Perrot

SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu

BERTRAND ST-ARNAUD
Chambly

MATHIEU TRAVERSY
Terrebonne

GUILLAUME TREMBLAY
Masson

DENIS TROTTIER
Rivière-du-Loup

DAVE TURCOTTE
Saint-Jean

ANDRÉ VILLENEUVE
Berthier

MARIO DUMONT*
Rivière-du-Loup

FRANÇOIS BONNARDEL
Shefford

ÉRIC CAIRE
La Peltrie

GÉRARD DELTELL
Chauveau

JANVIER GRONDIN
Beauce-Nord

MARC PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

SYLVIE ROY
Lotbinière

AMIR KHADIR
Mercier

*Member who resigned before March 31st, 2009

SEATING PLAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

Who are the Members of the 39th Legislature?

As at March 31, 2009, Members included 37 women, who made up 29.6% of the National Assembly. Thirteen of these Members were in the Cabinet, making up 48.1% of the Executive.

The main professional occupations of the Members before their election were as follows:

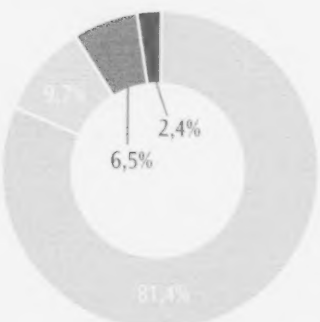
Main fields of education

- Administration and management
- Law
- Political science
- Teaching, education, education science

*Members may have a background in two fields

Academic background

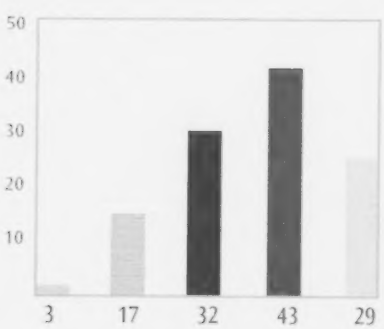
- University
- High school and vocational training
- College
- Normal school



Age of Members

- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 and over

Average age : 51 years and 2 months



Parliamentary experience of Members

Distribution of Members per number of terms of office

1 term of office	37
2 terms of office	32
3 terms of office	22
4 terms of office	15
5 terms of office	10
6 terms of office	1
7 terms of office	4
8 terms of office	0
9 terms of office	3

The Members of the National Assembly have on average 5 years and 7 months of parliamentary experience.

Average experience as a Member of the National Assembly: 5 years and 7 months

Composition of the National Assembly according to gender

Women

37 Members	29.8% of all Members
Average age:	52 years and 8 months
Average parliamentary experience:	5 years 11 months

Men

87 Members	70.2% of all Members
Average age:	50 years and 6 months
Average parliamentary experience:	5 years and 6 months

Thirty-four Members have previous experience in an elected office in municipal government or education. There are 14 former mayors among the current Members. Three Members have previously served as members of the Canadian House of Commons.

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

During their term of office, Members are called upon to debate a variety of issues concerning the public affairs of Québec. Various means are at their disposal to help them examine questions regarding societal issues and fully participate in parliamentary proceedings. Debates at the National Assembly and in committee proceed according to a set of rules based on the British parliamentary system, guaranteeing freedom of speech to Members and their legal authority over the business of the State.

SCHEDULE OF SITTINGS

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a parliamentary work calendar divided into two annual periods during which the Assembly meets: one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring session runs from the second Tuesday in March until June 23 at the latest. The fall session runs from the third Tuesday in October until December 21 at the latest.

In both spring and fall, the Assembly holds sittings based on two distinct periods: a period for ordinary hours of meeting and a period for extended hours of meeting. The following table summarizes the schedule of the National Assembly according to the time of year:

Did you know?

In 2008–2009, over 8,700 people attended the parliamentary debates in the National Assembly Chamber and 4,400 attended the proceedings of standing committees.

Schedule of National Assembly Sittings

Schedule	Ordinary hours of meeting: 2nd Tuesday in March to May 24 3rd Tuesday in October to November 24	Extended hours of meeting: May 25 to June 23 November 25 to December 21
Monday *		
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday		

** The Assembly may sit on Mondays on motion by the Government House Leader.*

Outside the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly holds extraordinary sittings at the request of the Premier. This request is made to the President or, in the President's absence, to the Secretary General.

Standing committees may sit at any time during the year, from Monday to Friday, at the times set in the Standing Orders.

WORK PERFORMED AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (38TH AND 39TH LEGISLATURES)

Sittings of the National Assembly and standing committees

During 2008–2009, 60 sittings were held at the National Assembly and 277 in standing committee. The table below provides a breakdown:

	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	SITTINGS	HOURS	SITTINGS	HOURS
April 2008	14	33 hr. 29 min.	80	255 hr. 36 min.
May	14	52 hr. 37 min.	49	134 hr. 51 min.
June	12	61 hr. 10 min.	49	133 hr. 19 min.
July	0	-	0	0 hr.
August	0	-	3	14 hr. 07 min.
September	0	-	18	79 hr.
October	6	25 hr. 48 min.	40	171 hr. 43 min.
November	1	3 hr. 41 min.	5	10 hr. 56 min.
General election: December 8, 2008				
January 2009	3	13 hr. 40 min.	11	1 hr. 1 min.
February	0	-	1	2 hr. 4 min.
March	10	52 hr. 44 min.	17	38 hr. 20 min.
TOTAL	**60**	**243 hr. 9 min.**	**277**	**840 hr. 57 min.**

These figures refer to the period from April 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009, including three extraordinary sittings held on January 13, 14 and 15, 2009.

Did you know?

The **House Secretariat** prepares the documents that the President and his/her advisors need for sittings of the Assembly and publishes the *Order Papers and Notices* and *Votes and Proceedings* for each sitting in both of Canada's official languages. It also drafts and translates progress reports for publication in Canadian parliamentary reviews.

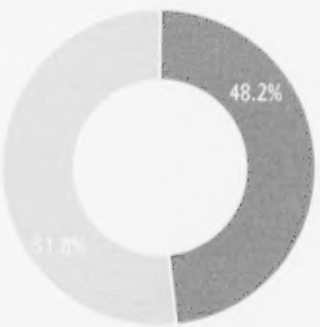
Conduct of a sitting at the National Assembly

An Assembly sitting consists of two distinct periods: Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day.

Routine Proceedings	Orders of the Day
Routine Proceedings are divided into nine items of business devoted to information provided by the Government to the National Assembly. One of the more interesting items is without doubt Oral Questions and Answers, which takes place on every sitting day. The items of business are considered in the following order: 1. Statements by Ministers 2. Introduction of Bills 3. Tablings 4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations 5. Oral Questions and Answers 6. Deferred Divisions 7. Motions without Notice 8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees 9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly	Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at any stage of consideration. At this time, the National Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The five items of business for this period are considered in the following order: 1. Business Having Precedence 2. Urgent Debates 3. Debates on Reports from Committees 4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper 5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Oral Questions and Answers

This item of business is without doubt the most familiar to citizens. During this 45 minute period, Members can question Ministers on current matters of public interest that fall within their or the Government's purview.



44 hr. 25 min. were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers.

The number of questions asked can be broken down as follows:

- Main questions: **642**
- Supplementary questions: **689**

Information on Routine Proceedings

Statements by Ministers – Ministers may make statements to the Assembly on any subject they deem appropriate, e.g., the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a particular event.

Introduction of Bills: Bills may be introduced during Routine Proceedings. Members do not discuss the content at this point; they simply allow bills to be submitted for consideration during subsequent stages of the legislative process.

In 2008–2009, 287 motions without notice were carried. They dealt with subjects such as

- The outstanding contribution of aboriginal nations to the development of Québec
- Journée internationale de la Francophonie (International Francophone Day)
- The 30th anniversary of the Conseil supérieur de la langue française

Information on Orders of the Day

Business Having Precedence – As the name indicates, this business takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The opening speech of the session, delivered by the Premier, and the speeches by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives during the subsequent debate rank first among business having precedence. Other business having precedence includes the budget speech and non-confidence motions.

Urgent Debates – Any Member may request an urgent debate. The President authorizes such a debate if he/she deems that the request concerns a specific matter of particular importance that is under the authority of the National Assembly and cannot be discussed otherwise.

Debates on Reports from Committees – Committee reports that contain recommendations are entered on the Order Paper immediately after being tabled in the National Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days.

Other Business Standing on the Order Paper and Notices – At this time, the National Assembly goes through the various stages of studying bills, notably passage in principle, consideration of reports from committees that have examined bills, and the passage of bills.

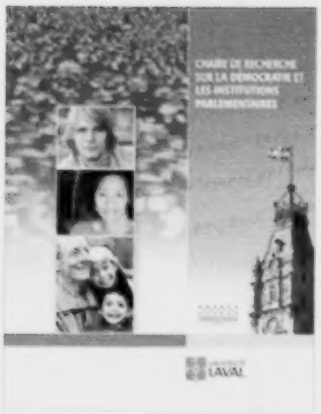
Only a Minister may introduce a bill having financial implications. However, barring this exception, any Member has the right to introduce a bill to the National Assembly and use the Assembly's legal and legislative services to have it drafted.

A few 2008–2009 statistics

- A ministerial statement was made by the Premier dealing with the tabling of the report by the Consultation Commission on Accommodation Practices Related to Cultural Differences.
- A total of 658 documents were tabled at the National Assembly, including decisions by the Office of the National Assembly, annual reports of departments and public agencies, committee reports and petitions.

Did you know?

The 2008 legislative report of the National Assembly is a summary of the previous year's legislative activity. It contains a fact sheet on all public acts, a table of amendments made to these acts, a list of acts by department or sector and an alphabetical index of public acts.



Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions

Launched in November 2007 as part of the special program for Québec City's 400th anniversary celebrations at the National Assembly, the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions has now begun its work, entrusting various projects to researchers on subjects such as the decline in voter turnout and the budget review process. These projects are being carried out on behalf of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Auditor General of Québec.

In summer 2008, chair holder Louis Massicotte spoke in Québec City at the Conference of Presiding Officers of La Francophonie, the Conference of Lobbyist Registrars and Commissioners and the Conference of Secretaries General of Francophone Parliaments. He also took part in the symposium on democracy and change in Canada at the Political Studies Institute of Grenoble. In addition, he was invited as an expert to a seminar on democracy assessment criteria for the parliaments of French-speaking countries, held on March 23, 2009, in Fribourg, Switzerland. In Paris, he met with Paul Dannaud, director of the Department of International Affairs and Defence at the French National Assembly, and Jean-Yves Pauti, administrative secretary general of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie.

In 2008–2009 the National Assembly passed 35 bills, which included the following:

During the 38th Legislature

- 28 sponsored by Ministers, 79% of which were passed unanimously
- 5 private bills, all passed unanimously

On average, 111 days elapsed between the time these bills were introduced and passed.

During the 39th Legislature

- 2 sponsored by Ministers, 50% of which were passed unanimously

STANDING COMMITTEES

A considerable portion of parliamentary work is not carried out in the National Assembly itself, but rather in standing committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and monitors of the Government's actions. These committees bring together Members of the various political parties that make up the National Assembly and are responsible for examining any matter under their authority. In committee, the public can express its views during public consultations on bills or important societal issues. In committee, Members also analyze bills in depth, examine the activities of departments and government agencies, study the Government's budget and may, on their own initiative, elect to investigate any other matter under their authority.

There are eleven permanent standing committees, nine of which are sector-based. A Member of the Official Opposition chairs the Committee on Public Administration and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

Committee chair

The committee chair is a Member of a parliamentary group and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. The chair organizes and chairs the proceedings of the committee, takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Committee vice-chair

The committee vice-chair is a Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chair and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. The vice-chair assists the chair in his/her duties and replaces him/her when necessary.

Schedule of standing committee sittings*

Date	Day	Time
Other than during the extended hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday to Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

During the extended hours of meeting*

Date	Day	Time
May 25 to June 23	Monday to Friday	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
November 25 to December 21		

**May not sit during Routine Proceedings*

Terms of reference and composition of the standing committees

Before presenting an overview of the work carried out in 2008–2009, below is a portrait of the terms of reference and composition of each committee when the 38th Legislature was dissolved on November 5, 2008, and as at March 31, 2009, for the 39th Legislature.

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Standing Orders of the Assembly and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings, coordination of the proceedings of the other committees

Members as at 5 November 2008:

The President of the National Assembly:	François Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)
Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly:	Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) Jacques Chagnon (Westmount– Saint-Louis) Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)
House leaders of the parliamentary groups:	Jean-Marc Fournier (Châteauguay) Sébastien Proulx (Trois-Rivières) Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Whips of the parliamentary groups:	Norman MacMillan (Papineau) François Bonnardel (Shefford) Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)

Commitee chairs:

Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee)	Louise Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)
Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier)	Claude L'Écuyer (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Catherine Morissette (Charlesbourg)	Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)	Sylvain Simard (Richelieu)
Lise Thériault (Anjou)	Gilles Taillon (Chauveau)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

President of the National Assembly:	Yvon Vallières (Richmond)
Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly:	Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) Jacques Chagnon (Westmount– Saint-Louis) François Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)
House leaders of the parliamentary groups:	Jacques P. Dupuis (Saint-Laurent) Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Whips of the parliamentary groups:	Pierre Moreau (Châteauguay) Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)

Committee chairs:

Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)	Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin)	François Ouimet (Marquette)
Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier)	Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
François Legault (Rousseau)	Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
Marie Malavoy (Taillon)	Sylvain Simard (Richelieu)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Accountability and examination of financial commitments of the departments and public bodies

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair: Gilles Taillon (Chauveau) ADQ
Vice-chair: Vincent Auclair (Vimont) QLP

QLP
Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges)
Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun)
Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Pierre Reid (Orford)

ADQ
Hubert Benoît (Montmorency)
Claude Morin (Beauce-Sud)
Jean-François Therrien (Terrebonne)

PQ
Pascal Bérubé (Matane)
Martin Lemay (Saint-Marie–Saint-Jacques)
Agnès Maltais (Taschereau)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair: Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ
Vice-chair: Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) QLP

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
Stéphanie Billette (Huntingdon)
Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun)
Patrick Huot (Vanier)
Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ
Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice)
Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne)
Guillaume Tremblay (Masson)

ADQ
vacant

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Executive Council, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations, the Constitution

Members as at 5 November 2008 :

Chair: Lise Thériault (Anjou) QLP
Vice-chair: François Benjamin (Berthier) ADQ
Rita Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont) PQ

QLP
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Tony Tomassi (Lafontaine)

ADQ
Pascal Beaupré (Joliette)
François Desrochers (Mirabel)
Claude L'Écuyer (Saint-Hyacinthe)

PQ
Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean)
Daniel Turp (Mercier)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair: Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) PQ
Vice-chair: Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) QLP

QLP
Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
François Ouimet (Marquette)
Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)
Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

PQ
Louise Beaudoin (Rosemont)
Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean)
Véronique Hivon (Joliette)

ADQ
Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Finance, the budget, public accounts, public administration, the public service, supply and services

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair: Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides) QLP
Vice-chair: Christian Lévesque (Lévis) ADQ

QLP
Pierre Arcand (Mont-Royal)
Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee)
Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)
Nicole Ménard (Laporte)

ADQ
Éric Charbonneau (Johnson)
Jean-François Roux (Arthabaska)
Gilles Taillon (Chauveau)

PQ
François Legault (Rousseau)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)
Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair: Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides) QLP
Vice-chair: Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) PQ

QLP
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)
Marc Carrière (Chapleau)
Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Michel Matte (Portneuf)

PQ
Jean-Martin Aussant (Nicolet-Yamaska)
Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)
Daniel Ratthé (Blainville)

ADQ
M. François Bonnardel (Shefford)

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Family, health, social and community services, status of women, income security

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair: Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) QLP
Vice-chair: Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) PQ

QLP
Pierre-Michel Auger (Champlain)
Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)
Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

ADQ
Éric Caire (La Peltrie)
Éric Dorion (Nicolet-Yamaska)
Linda Lapointe (Groulx)
Lucille Méthé (Saint-Jean)

PQ
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair: Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) QLP
Vice-chair: Camil Bouchard (Vachon) PQ

QLP
Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)
Michel Matte (Portneuf)
Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)
Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)
Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)

PQ
René Gauvreau (Groulx)
Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)
Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)

ADQ
Éric Caire (La Peltrie)

QS
Amir Khadir (Mercier)

The importance of parliamentary control

Parliamentary control activities represent close to 32 % of the work carried out in committee, as the following numbers indicate:

Parliamentary control		
Government estimates of expenditure	195 hr 42 min	23.3%
Interpellations	15 hr 50 min	1.9%
Surveillance of agencies	23 hr 19 min	2.8%
Examination of financial commitments	2 hr 47 min	0.3%
Accountability	28 hr 47 min	3.4%
Subtotal		31.7%
Consideration of public bills	313 hr 05 min	37.2%
Consideration of private bills	1 hr 45 min	0.2%
Other orders of the National Assembly	97 hr 23 min	11.6%
Delegated legislation	0 hr	0%
Other mandates under the Standing Orders	30 hr 09 min	3.6%
Orders of initiative	108 hr 25 min	12.9%
General organization and election of chairs and vice-chairs	23 hr 45 min	2.8%
TOTAL		100%

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science and technology, energy and resources, manpower

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair:
Vice-chair:

QLP
Pierre Arcand (Mont-Royal)
Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)
Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
Nicole Ménard (Laporte)

Catherine Morissette (Charlesbourg) ADQ
Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) QLP

ADQ
François Bonnardel (Shefford)
Richard Merlini (Chambly)
Claude Roy (Montmagny-L'Islet)

PQ
Serge Deslières (Beauharnois)
Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque)
Johanne Motasse (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair:
Vice-chair:

François Ouimet (Marquette) QLP
Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères) PQ

QLP
Claude Bachand (Arthabaska)
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)
Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
Michel Matte (Portneuf)

PQ
Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)
Monique Richard (Marguerite-D'Youville)
Denis Trottier (Roberval)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Agriculture, fisheries, food

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair:
Vice-chair:

Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) QLP
Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord) ADQ

QLP
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil)
Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

ADQ
Jean Damphousse (Maskinongé)
Albert De Martin (Huntingdon)
Robert Deschamps (Saint-Maurice)

PQ
Maxime Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Denis Trottier (Roberval)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

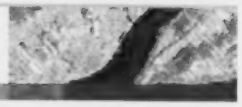
Chair:
Vice-chair:

Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) QLP
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) PQ

QLP
Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)
Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)
Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)

PQ
Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
Marie Bouillé (Iberville)
Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN



Local communities, municipal planning, housing, recreation

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair: Claude L'Écuyer (Saint-Hyacinthe) **ADQ**
Vice-chair: Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) **QLP**

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
André Riedl (Iberville)
Tony Tomassi (Lafontaine)

ADQ
Martin Camirand (Prévost)
Raymond Francoeur (Portneuf)
Pierre Gingras (Blainville)

PQ
Jacques Côté (Dubuc)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair: Marie Malavoy (Taillon) **PQ**
Vice-chair: Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet) **QLP**

QLP
Marc Carrière (Chapleau)
Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)
André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)
Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)
Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)

PQ
Luc Ferland (Ungava)
Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)

ADQ
Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Education, vocational training, consumer protection

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair: Louise Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) **PQ**
Vice-chair: Pierre Arcand (Mont-Royal) **QLP**

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

ADQ
Linda Lapointe (Groulx)
Éric Laporte (L'Assomption)
Sylvain Légaré (Vanier)
Sébastien Proulx (Trois-Rivières)

PQ
Maka Kotto (Bourget)
Marie Malavoy (Taillon)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair: Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) **QLP**
Vice-chair: Pierre Curzi (Borduas) **PQ**

QLP
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)
Patrick Huot (Vanier)
Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)
Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)
Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

PQ
Yves-François Blanchet (Drummond)
Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe)

ADQ
Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)

Temporary chair

A Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chair or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity. In 2008-2009, 14% of public committee hearings had a temporary chair.

Temporary chairs as at March 31, 2009:

QLP

Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
Patrick Huot (Vanier)
Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)
Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)
Pierre Reid (Orford)
Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)
Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)

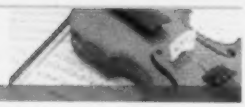
PQ

Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
Pascal Bérubé (Matane)
Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)
Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)
Denis Trottier (Roberval)

ADQ

Éric Caire (La Peltrie)

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE



Culture, communications, cultural communities immigration, relations with the citizens

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair:
Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) **PQ**
Vice-chair:
Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau) **QLP**

QLP
Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
François Ouimet (Marquette)

ADQ
François Benjamin (Berthier)
Jean-François Gosselin (Jean-Lesage)
Ginette Grandmont (Masson)
Monique Roy Verville (La Prairie)

PQ
Pierre Curzi (Borduas)
Alexis Wawanoloath (Abitibi-Est)

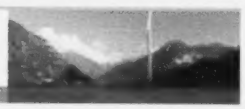
Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair:
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) **QLP**
Vice-chair:
Maka Kotto (Bourget) **PQ**

QLP
Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)
Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)
Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)
Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger)

PQ
Benoit Charrette (Deux-Montagnes)
Gilles Robert (Prévost)
Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Transportation, public works, the environment, wildlife

Members as at 5 November 2008:

Chair:
Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee) **QLP**
Vice-chair:
Jean Domingue (Bellechasse) **ADQ**

QLP
Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
François Ouimet (Marquette)
Pierre Reid (Orford)
Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)

ADQ
Simon-Pierre Diamond (Marguerite-D'Youville)
Lucie Leblanc (Deux-Montagnes)
Sébastien Schneeberger (Drummond)

PQ
Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères)
Camil Bouchard (Vachon)
Luc Ferland (Ungava)

Members as at 31 March 2009:

Chair:
François Legault (Rousseau) **PQ**
Vice-chair:
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) **QLP**

QLP
Marc Carrière (Chapleau)
Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges)
Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)
Patrick Huot (Vanier)
Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ
Étienne-Alexis Boucher (Johnson)
Scott McKay (L'Assomption)
André Villeneuve (Berthier)

ADQ
Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)

Key events: Orders of reference given by motions placed on the order paper by Opposition Members

A "Wednesday motion" is the name given to issues raised by the Opposition and debated from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays during regular hours of meeting.

The Committee on Public Administration was thus tasked with shedding light on the dismissal of Québec's Delegate General in New York City. The motion was presented by the Official Opposition and amended before being unanimously adopted by the National Assembly. The Minister of International Relations and the Premier both appeared before the hearings that resulted. A report containing observations and one recommendation was then tabled.

Another "Wednesday motion" tasked the Committee on Institutions with looking into why the Government of Québec had signed a contract with Attractions Hippiques and producing a report on the matter. The motion had been adopted by a majority of Assembly Members. To this end, the Committee held three days of public hearings in August 2008. Fifteen individuals and organizations were heard, including Senator Paul J. Massicotte, the owner of Attractions Hippiques; the Auditor General of Québec; the Finance Minister of Québec; and the Loto-Québec President and CEO. The Committee tabled a report containing three recommendations on October 29, 2008.

Only one other motion of this type had ever previously been adopted. Again, it came in the 38th Legislature, which was notable for the fact that a majority of Members belonged to the Opposition parties.

The Committee on Public Finance was also given an order in the wake of a motion jointly presented by a Member from each parliamentary group and subsequently unanimously passed by the Assembly. In accordance with the motion, on September 30, 2008, the Committee heard the six members of the working committee tasked with studying the cost of indexing pension plans. The working committee had been asked to determine main parameters and facts to consider with regard to the indexation of pension plans in the public and broader public sectors. The hearing was very well attended, particularly by representatives of the government retiree associations most affected by the issue.

The mandates of the standing committees

The sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of mandate: orders of initiative, orders of reference and statutory orders. The list of mandates carried out by the standing committees in 2008–2009 can be found in the appendix. Following the dissolution of the 38th Legislature, over 40 orders referred to standing committees or raised on the committees' own initiative lapsed. As at March 31, 2009, certain orders interrupted in November 2008 had been reintroduced by the 39th Legislature, and new orders had also been issued.

Did you know?

A "Wednesday motion" is the name given to issues raised by the Opposition and debated from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays during regular hours of meeting.

Orders of initiative

In the course of 2008–2009, the members of the various committees took the initiative to examine issues affecting numerous areas of activity. Such mandates require the holding of many meetings during which Members prepare consultation or background papers, hear experts, plan public hearings and, following the hearings, draft final reports containing recommendations for the Government.

The Committee on Social Affairs began an ambitious order of initiative in 2008 to address homelessness in Québec. After tabling a consultation paper outlining the problem, the Committee decided to hold public hearings in Montréal, Trois-Rivières and Gatineau, before holding further hearings in the Parliament Building. However, the dissolution of the 38th Legislature spelled the end of the Committee's hearings. After 11 days of hearings, the Committee had heard from over 100 individuals and organizations, including personal accounts by people who were or had been homeless. By the end of its work, the Committee had received close to 150 briefs, in addition to discussion papers and responses to the questionnaire posted on the National Assembly website as part of the consultation process to facilitate the participation of all citizens interested in the issue. When visiting Montréal and Trois-Rivières, Committee members were also able to visit organizations that work with the homeless. On March 18, 2009, the members of the Committee on Social Affairs elected to continue the work they had begun under the 38th Legislature and thus bring the hearings to completion and begin drafting a final report.

Orders of initiative

On their own initiative, committee members examine draft regulations and regulations, the direction, operation and management of public agencies and any other matter of public interest.

For its part, the Committee on Culture held two days of public hearings as part of its order of initiative to investigate the dubbing of movies and television series in Québec. It took a particular interest in DVDs and new technologies, among other things. These hearings gave the Committee the opportunity to hear from 11 individuals and organizations with close ties to the industry.

Finally, in the wake of special consultations held in February 2008 on waste management, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment tabled a report in June 2008 containing 48 recommendations. Among other measures, Committee members called on the Government to take sustainable development and climate change into account in future waste management policy.

Standing committees also exercised surveillance of agencies as part of their mission to examine the direction, operations and management of public agencies within their jurisdiction. For instance, the Committee on Culture heard from the three organizations spawned by the Charter of the French Language: the Conseil supérieur de la langue française, the Office québécois de la langue française and the Commission de toponymie du Québec. Following this examination, the Committee tabled a report advocating, among other things, closer collaboration between the Conseil supérieur de la langue française and the Office québécois de la langue française when monitoring the language situation in Québec. The Committee on Transportation and the Environment also devoted two days to a hearing with the chair and CEO of the SAAQ (Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec).

Orders of reference

At the request of the National Assembly, the committees examine bills, estimates of expenditure and any other matters they may be asked to study. These are known as "orders of reference."

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The standing committees examined 35 bills of which a complete list may be consulted in the appendix. For all bills submitted for study by the standing committees, 2,057 sections were examined and 569 amendments were adopted out of the 633 amendments introduced.

Special consultations

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the committee or by the Assembly owing to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

Public consultations

In 2008–2009, 414 groups and individuals came before the committees to give their opinions on the various matters on which consultations were held. The standing committees received 194 briefs. These consultations enable the parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration and to make observations, conclusions and recommendations.

General consultations

General consultations are open to the population at large. Prior to their holding, a public notice must be published in selected newspapers, in the *Québec Official Gazette* and on the National Assembly web-site inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matters under consideration to submit briefs to the committee. Public hearings are then held by the committee in order to discuss the submissions received.

For example, the Committee on Labour and the Economy was tasked with leading special consultations on the document entitled *L'occupation du territoire forestier québécois et la constitution des sociétés d'aménagement des forêts*. To this end, 11 days of public hearings saw 66 individuals and organizations make representations. The Committee on Transportation and the Environment held special consultations on Bill 92, *An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection*. Thirty individuals and organizations appeared before the parliamentarians of the Committee and gave their comments on the bill, which notably sought to confirm the legal status of water as a collective resource that is part of Québec's shared heritage.

The following bills were also submitted for public consultation:

38th Legislature

- Bill 23, *An Act respecting clinical and research activities relating to assisted procreation*
- Bill 68, *An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and other legislative provisions*
- Bill 60, *An Act to amend the Police Act*
- Bill 88, *An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting school elections*
- Bill 93, *An Act to amend the Charter of Ville de Québec*
- Bill 96, *An Act to amend the Act respecting transportation services by taxi*
- Bill 97, *An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act*
- Bill 99, *An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure to prevent abusive use of the courts and promote freedom of expression and citizen participation in public debate*

39th Legislature

- Bill 6, *An Act to establish a seniors caregiver support fund*
- Bill 25, *An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act*

Examination of the 2008–2009 estimates of expenditure

For a three-week period in April, the standing committees considered the estimates of expenditure of the Government, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. By the conclusion of their mandate, the committees had devoted 195 hours to the examination of the estimates of expenditure granted to the departments and agencies, totalling over $64 billion.

Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Pursuant to sections 45 and 68 of the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act, the Committee on Public Finance twice heard the Lobbyists Commissioner in spring 2008. The Committee first examined the annual reports of the Commissioner—one of the four individuals designated by the Assembly—for the years 2002 to 2007. On this occasion, the Lobbyists Commissioner, André C. Côté, reported on the organization and answered questions from members of the Committee. The Committee then held four days of public hearings on the document entitled Rapport sur la mise en œuvre de la Loi sur la transparence et l'éthique en matière de lobbyisme et du Code de déontologie des lobbyistes. This report by the Minister of Justice looks at how the Act has worked, considers some of the enforcement difficulties it has encountered and discusses whether or not it should be amended. The Committee also addressed the record of the Lobbyists Commissioner over the first five years of the Act's existence. In addition

to the Lobbyists Commissioner, 23 individuals and organizations participated in the consultation, and 46 others conveyed their comments via the online consultation. However, the dissolution of the 38th Legislature prevented the Committee from completing these two orders.

Some orders of the standing committees come from an act or regulation, others from the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

Interpellation

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member of the Opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he or she is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the National Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held). During 2008–2009, the Government's ministers were interpellated eight times on the following subjects:

38th Legislature

- Public security in Québec
  (Committee on Institutions, April 4 and May 26, 2008)
- The state of the French language in Québec
  (Committee on Culture, May 2, 2008)
- The health system in Québec (Committee on Social Affairs, May 12, 2008)
- Flaws in the CHUM modernization project
  (Committee on Public Finance, May 16, 2008)
- Investment plans for the CHUM and the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec
  (Committee on Social Affairs, October 31, 2008)

39th Legislature

- The decisions of the federal government and their impact on the financial situation in Québec (Committee on Institutions, March 20, 2009)
- PPP financing in the context of the global financial crisis
  (Committee on Public Finance, March 27, 2009)

Did you know?

Unlike the other public standing committee hearings, which are held in the four chambers of the Parliament Building and the Pamphile-Le May Building, **interpellations** always take place in the National Assembly Chamber. On such occasions, the committee chair sits at the clerks' Table in the seat normally reserved for the Secretary General of the Assembly.

The Committee on Public Administration

The Committee on Public Administration calls public administrators to account on their management. It carries out this mandate by inviting the deputy ministers and the chief executive officers of public bodies to come before it to answer the questions of parliamentarians on their annual management reports or to discuss the observations contained in the Auditor General's reports.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding $25,000 granted to departments and public agencies whose estimates of expenditure are voted on by the Assembly. In scrutinizing these expenditures, the Committee ensures itself of their advisability, the observance of government rules and standards governing the granting of contracts and subsidies, and the equitable allocation of public funds.

During the 2008–2009 fiscal year, the Committee on Public Administration tabled its 20th report in the National Assembly on the accountability of the deputy ministers and the managers of organizations. The report contains 14 recommendations and addresses the following topics: the 2006–2007 annual management report of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, follow-up to the cadastral reform, the management of real estate projects, and building management in the health and social services network, including oversight of the modernization projects for Montréal's university hospitals. Chapter 5 of the report suggests a new approach to examining the Committee's annual management reports. This approach, based on a developing practice, will now enable the Committee to evaluate the performance of departments and agencies in addition to analyzing the quality of the information contained in the annual management reports of these same organizations. With more than ten years of experience, the Committee on Public Administration hopes, by adopting this new practice, to remain one of the leading standing committees in Canada with a mandate to examine accountability issues.

The Committee also held public hearings on the Auditor General's special report on the use of public funds by the former Lieutenant-Governor of Québec. On this occasion, the Committee heard, in order, the Auditor General of Québec, the Secretary General of the Executive Council, the former Lieutenant-Governor and the current Lieutenant-Governor of Québec. It was the first time in Canada that a former or incumbent Lieutenant-Governor had ever been called before a standing committee.

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF MEMBERS

A computerized clerks' Table

The new parliamentary clerks' Table installed in the National Assembly Chamber in October 2007 now features further computer enhancements. During Oral Question Period, interventions are automatically displayed on the President's screen, enabling him to see at the beginning of each intervention whether a main question or a supplementary question is being asked and to keep track of the time allotted for each intervention.

The Computer Services Directorate has also developed a computerized seating plan for recorded divisions. In addition to displaying Members' names and how they voted (for, against or abstention), this application allows votes to be counted automatically and the results sent over a secure network to the House Secretariat for compilation of the Votes and Proceedings.

Did you know?

The Committees Secretariat issues an **annual statistical report on the work of the standing committees**. The 2007–2008 report is available on the National Assembly website at **www.assnat.qc.ca**

Contribution of the Research Division to the exercise of parliamentary control

The primary purpose of the Research Division of the Library of the National Assembly is to assist standing committee members in carrying out orders of initiative and parliamentary control. During 2008–2009, it actively supported the work of nine committees working on accountability matters and in carrying out orders of initiative. It also produced some 70 documents to meet the research and writing needs of the committees. To provide for the information needs of parliamentarians, the Division produced an information booklet of some 50 articles on the main missions of the State as well as briefing cards on public organizations in order to help Members with their surveillance work.

The Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec brings together former Members of Parliament. Its mission is to help promote the parliamentary institutions of Québec and to distribute information on parliamentarism. In September 2008–2009, it hosted the 5th Convention of the Union mondiale des associations d'anciens parlementaires francophones (the World Union of French Language Associations of Former Parliamentarians, UMAPF) as part of Québec City's 400th anniversary celebrations. A few months later in December, the Amicale celebrated its 15th anniversary.

CITIZENS

CITIZENS

In addition to providing citizens with the opportunity to follow parliamentary proceedings and on occasion to take part in them, the National Assembly has a vast array of communications tools for the purpose of bringing the citizens and their elected representatives closer together.

EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Few parliaments in the world offer educational activities to the public as rewarding as those of the National Assembly of Québec. To stimulate the interest of people of all ages in the exercise of democracy and contribute to their becoming active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy.

The Tournament and the parliamentary simulations

The Tournament and parliamentary simulations are role-playing activities designed to educate participants about the operation of the National Assembly, its rules and privileges and the limits of its powers. Citizen-Members spend several days drafting and discussing bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and respect for others.

Intergenerational Parliament

To mark Québec City's historic 400th anniversary, the National Assembly added an innovative Intergenerational Parliament to its special program of activities. The parliamentary simulation—presided over by Fatima Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President of the National Assembly, and Jean Leclerc, the chair of the board of the Société du 400e anniversaire de Québec and former Member for Taschereau, assisted by former Olympic skier Mélanie Turgeon—was an activity all could enjoy.

The parliamentary simulation took place from September 15 to 17, 2008. It attracted some 100 participants from all age groups and areas of Québec. During the simulation, young people, adults and seniors worked toward the common goal of creating an Intergenerational Charter.

The charter, which represented participants' hopes and ideals, also served as a bridge between generations. It was drafted, discussed and adopted by the apprentice Members with a primary focus on citizens' rights and duties, particularly regarding health, safety, the environment, education and employment.

Based on the values and principles of respect and solidarity, the charter was intended to provide direction to 21st century Québec. It reflects the National Assembly's desire to promote Québec's democratic heritage and to broaden knowledge of political history and parliamentary democracy.

The National Assembly of Québec organized the Intergenerational Parliament initiative in cooperation with the *Association québécoise de défense des personnes retraitées et préretraitées (AQDR)*.

The Intergenerational Charter can be read online at **www.assnat.qc.ca**, in the section "Mission éducative."

YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT, FROM APRIL 11 TO 13, 2008

Quiz game on democracy from Ancient Greece to our times

Target audience: Secondary 4 and 5 and college students

Participants : 284 (students and teachers)

Theme: Québec City's 400 years as a capital

Study grants: One-time total of $12,000

PUPILS' PARLIAMENT, ON MAY 2, 2008

Target audience: 6th grade elementary students

Participants : 243 (apprentice Members and teachers)

Examples of bills considered:

1. An Act obliging schools to implement an elementary school revitalization program so as to provide a healthy, welcoming environment for students
2. An Act obliging schools to set up pen pal exchanges between their students and students in other francophone countries
3. An Act to set up a program to prevent bullying in elementary and secondary schools

YOUTH PARLIAMENT, FROM DECEMBER 26 TO 30, 2008

Target audience: College and university students

Participants : 99 (apprentice Members and journalists)

Examples of bills considered:

1. An Act on self-determination for the aboriginal peoples of Québec
2. An Act instituting tax incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
3. An Act on reform of the Québec public healthcare system
4. An Act on media institutions and their regulatory bodies

STUDENT PARLIAMENT, FROM JANUARY 2 TO 6, 2009

Target audience: College and university students

Participants : 132 (apprentice Members and journalists)

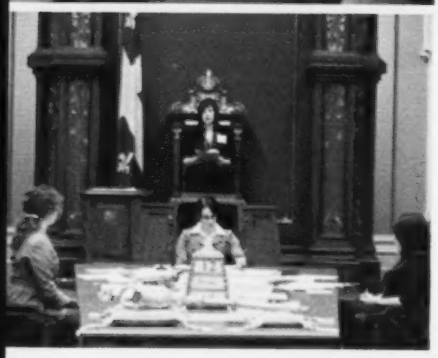
Examples of bills considered:

The Red Caucus

1. An Act to attract new people, including foreign workers, to farming
2. An Act to reform public services and modernize the State
3. An Act on the management of a public/private healthcare system

The Blue Caucus

4. An Act on the social responsibility of businesses
5. An Act setting out a new municipal funding framework for citizen reform
6. A Government Organization Act respecting the National Assembly and the creation of the legislative assembly and a social and economic council for Québec



STUDENT FORUM, FROM JANUARY 6 TO 10, 2009

Target audience: College students

Participants : **177** (apprentice Members, president, secretary general, deputy clerks, journalists, press officers and teachers)

Examples of bills considered:

1. An Act to implement an action plan for the purpose of nationalizing production of wind-powered energy in Québec
2. An Act to restructure the Québec school system
3. An Act respecting school/work balance for secondary and college students

YOUNG PEOPLES' PARLIAMENT, FROM FEBRUARY 11 TO 13, 2009

Target audience: Secondary 3 and 4 students

Participants : **105** (apprentice Members, president, deputy clerks and journalists)

Examples of bills considered:

1. An Act on implementation of security measures for students using information technology in Québec schools
2. An Act on first-aid training for students and staff members in Québec secondary schools
3. An Act on selected measures to foster student exchange programs

Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

This National Assembly foundation bears the name of the man celebrated at his death in 1978 as one of the great intellectuals of Québec. Since 1978, the Foundation has kept alive the memory of Jean-Charles Bonenfant, law clerk, university scholar, historian, author and humanist.

In continuing its namesake's efforts to further democracy and parliamentary institutions, especially among the young, the Foundation organizes a host of activities each year, including the activity known as Parliaments in High Schools, which reaches over 4,000 students ages 13 to 17 in their home school environment, as well as a conference on themes relating to parliamentarism. It also funds parliamentary internships for Québec university students.

Parliamentary internships

Each year since 1978, Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant has provided paid parliamentary internships at the National Assembly. Participants experience the numerous aspects of Québec parliamentary life, becoming more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and of the institutions that are accoun-

table thereto, namely the Auditor General, the Québec Ombudsman, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Lobbyists Commissioner. Subsequently, each intern is paired with a Minister of the Government and then with a Member of an opposition party. The interns also take part in a mission abroad and are required to prepare a dissertation comparing different legislative systems.

Scholarship interns from September 2007 to June 2008

The scholarship interns for 2007–2008—Julien Domingue, Nicolas Fontaine, Mathieu Fraser, Alexandre Paré and Alexandre A. Regimbal—took part in a mission to Romania where they studied that country's bi-cameral parliamentary system as well as its proportional electoral system.

Their internship dissertations, submitted on June 25, 2008, to Jacques Chagnon, National Assembly Vice-President and Fondation Vice-President, bore the following titles:

- *From its creation to its consecration as the court of final appeal: the Supreme Court of Canada as it was conceived, created and modified by parliamentarians in the House of Commons (1867–1949)* (Alexandre A. Regimbal)
- *Online consultation at the National Assembly of Québec: a credible democratic advancement at work?* (Alexandre Paré)
- *Introduction of popular initiative referendums in Québec: an evaluation of the advantages and risks for democracy* (Julien Domingue)
- *Petitioning practices in the Lower Canada House of Assembly, 1792–1795: origins and uses* (Mathieu Fraser)
- *Party leaders: Québec's power brokers* (Nicolas Fontaine)

These dissertations, which can be found in the Library of the National Assembly, are also available on the Foundation's website, **www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca**

The Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant interns for 2007-2008, from left to right: Nicolas Fontaine, Mathieu Fraser, Alexandre Paré, Julien Domingue and Alexandre A. Regimbal

Scholarship interns from September 2008 to June 2009

The 2008–2009 scholarship recipients—Marie-Astrid Ospina D'Amours, Marc-André Turcotte, Pierre-Luc Turgeon, Olivier Bégin-Caouette and Pierre-Olivier Legault Tremblay—began their internships in September 2008. In addition to working on behalf of individual Members of Government, they completed a number of assignments for various administrative units of the National Assembly.

Their foreign mission took them to Brazil, where they met with legislators and studied electronic voting and political party financing, among other topics.

The Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant interns for 2008-2009, from left to right: Pierre-Olivier Legault Tremblay, Olivier Bégin-Caouette, Marie-Astrid Ospina D'amours, Pierre-Luc Turgeon and Marc-André Turcotte

Parliaments in High Schools

Parliaments in High Schools takes its inspiration from the National Assembly while mirroring the operation of student councils. The program encourages secondary schoolers in years one through five to take part in decisions affecting student life, thus helping them to feel that they have a role to play in their school communities. Participation takes place in a spirit of cooperation and assistance between the school board, school principal and school staff members.

Parliaments in High Schools also affords a lesson in democracy. The activity allows young people to acquire knowledge of the National Assembly and experience the process of debating public issues while upholding values such as respect for differences of opinion and the art of compromise.

The generous contribution of Rio Tinto Alcan helps the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant run this exercise in democratic participation and education. The Fédération des commissions scolaires and the Secrétariat à la jeunesse also

provide financial contributions for Parliaments in High Schools. In addition, The Foundation benefits from the support of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.

As of March 31, 2009, Parliaments in High Schools included 173 schools and over 4,000 student council members.

Course on parliamentary law and procedure at Laval University

For a fifth consecutive year, the National Assembly and Université Laval have formed a partnership to offer a course on parliamentary law and procedure to university students. Tailor-made for law and political science students, this course seeks to instruct them on the rules and principles that characterize the organization and operation of the parliamentary proceedings carried out at the National Assembly.

Course on parliamentary law and procedure at Université Laval

Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour program

On April 24, 2008, the National Assembly hosted the third edition of the Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour, a cooperative effort of the Interparliamentary and International Relations, Debates Broadcasting and Publishing, and Restaurants directorates. Over 20 young participants took advantage of the opportunity to explore occupations or professions that they are passionate about, such as producer, cook or international relations advisor. Hosted by an employee from the selected directorate, each Secondary 4 or 5 student explored new work environments, discovering various aspects of intriguing occupations or professions. For more information: **www.jeunes-explorateurs.org**

Explorers-for-a-day at the Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate

AN ASSEMBLY THAT OPENS ITS DOORS TO CITIZENS

Open House Day at the Parliament Building on the occasion of Québec's national holiday

Open House Day

On June 24, Québec's national holiday, nearly 1,800 people accepted the invitation of the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Michel Bissonnet, to meet him personally and tour the Parliament Building. Musicians, face painters and clowns were on hand to entertain visitors, and historians and seasoned guides fielded questions on everything from the architecture and ornamentation of the Parliament Building to the roles and responsibilities of government Members. Also open to visitors was the National Assembly Library, where the exhibit *Québec reliée comme jamais* was inaugurated and authors of *Québec: quatre siècles d'une capitale* were present to meet the public and sign copies of their book.

Exhibitions

Espace Champlain Exhibition

The National Assembly's special program of activities for the 400th anniversary of Québec City featured a wealth of exhibitions dedicated to the city's founder, including *Espace Champlain*. On July 2, Michel Bissonnet, President of the National Assembly, inaugurated the exhibit, which was open to the public until August 31, 2008.

Highlights of the exhibit were *L'arrivée de Champlain à Québec*, an enormous painting by Henri Beau dating from 1908, as well as documents said to been in Champlain's own hand. They included a manuscript from the period 1599–1601 describing a voyage to the West Indies that Champlain may have made. It was the first time that this priceless document was on display in Canada.

Québec reliée comme jamais. Œuvres témoins de 400 ans d'histoire

The exhibition *Québec reliée comme jamais* was inaugurated at the Library of the National Assembly on June 24, Québec's national holiday, by National Assembly president Michel Bissonnet and Jonathan Tremblay, the president of Amis de la Reliure d'Art du Canada (ARA-Canada). Jean Leclerc, the president of the board of the Société du 400e anniversaire de Québec, and Philippe Sauvageau, the Library head, also took part in the inauguration.

Included in *Québec reliée comme jamais*, which was on display until September 29, 2008, were books from 66 binderies in Canada, the United States, France and Japan that took part in a competition organized by ARA-Canada. The items in the exhibit shared a common theme—Québec City—despite their various genres, periods, settings and publication dates.

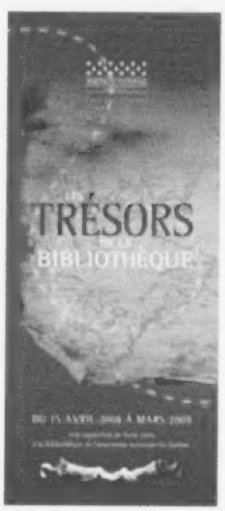
At the time of the inauguration, three works received awards:
- *La vieille Capitale - Québec historique, suivi de Montcalm - L'épopée canadienne* by Alain Taral (first prize)
- *Les annales de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*, 1636-1716, by Louise Mauger (second prize)
- *Chez Gérard, la petite scène des grandes vedettes 1938-1978*, by Aline Mauger (third prize).

Each of the three prizewinners received a decorative knife designed and crafted by Chantal Gilbert, sculptor and knifemaker.

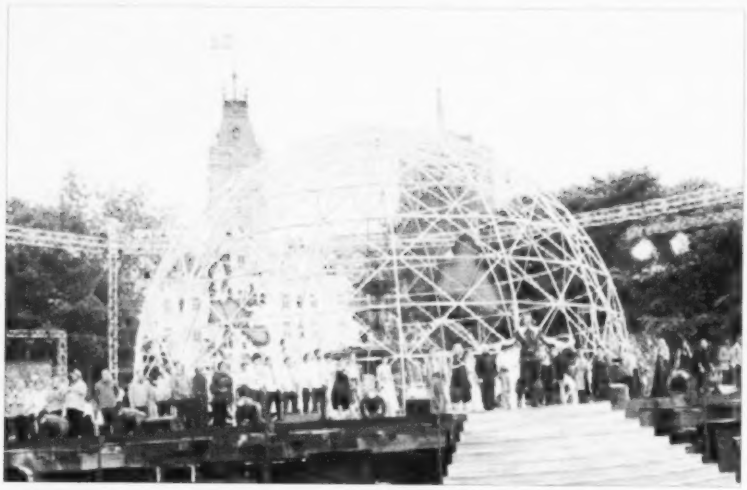
The exhibition *Québec reliée comme jamais* was also shown at the Myriam and J. Robert Ouimet Library of Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal management school from November 7, 2008, to February 27, 2009.

Les Trésors de la Bibliothèque

The Library of the National Assembly showed off some of the most beautiful volumes in its rare book collection in *Les trésors de la Bibliothèque*, an exhibition that ran from April 14, 2008, to March 30, 2009. For over 200 years, the Library has possessed works of significant historical value. Its many treasures include *Lex parliamentaria, ou Traité de la loi et coutume des parlements* (1803), translated by Joseph-François Perrault, and *Modus tenedi parliamentum, or The Old Manner of Holding Parliaments in England* (1671). Visitors may also admire several works in aboriginal languages, including a magnificent manuscript in Huron. The Library displayed a number of books depicting the city's history throughout the year-long observation of Québec City's 400th anniversary.



Rencontres



July 3, 1608, marks a memorable date in Québec City's history: the day that Samuel de Champlain first set foot on Québec soil. Exactly 400 years later, a commemorative show organized by Société du 400e anniversaire de Québec was held on the Parliament Building grounds. *Rencontres* mixed song, humour and an historic setting – the architecture and grounds of Parliament were part of its opening scene as an actor playing the role of Champlain descended from the central tower of Parliament by cable and forded a small stream symbolizing the St. Lawrence River to depict the explorer's arrival at Stadacona in 1608.

Guided tours

A total of 88,426 guests took guided or self-guided tours of the Parliament Building and over 24,700 persons visited the National Assembly's restaurants, standing committee chambers and *La Boutique* in 2008–2009.

Statistics on Parliament Building visits according to place of origin

Place of origin	Number of persons	%
Québec	59,725	68
Other countries	12,801	14
Other Canadian provinces	9,142	10
United States	6,758	8
Total	88,426	

Statistics on Parliament Building visits according to language		
Language	Number of persons	%
English	21,025	23.77
Spanish	584	0.66
French	66,620	75.33
Italian	178	0.20
QSL (Québec Sign Language)	19	0.02
Total	88,426	

Statistics on attendance of school groups	
Primary	10,834 students
Secondary	11,726 students
College	1,187 students
University	641 students

Total: 24,388

During the summer of 2008, nearly 1,000 people visited the kiosk near the Parliament Building to sign up for guided tours of the gardens and grounds. Another 4,300 stopped by to request information.

Restaurants of the Parliament Building

Cafeteria renovations

The *Mini-Débat* cafeteria was last redesigned in 1991. Nearly 20 years later, it was ready for a makeover on several fronts. Its reception, dining and preparation areas were consequently renovated to offer better service and a healthier menu that reflects today's tastes. The National Assembly also took advantage of the occasion to rename the cafeteria the *Café du Parlement*—former name of *Le Parlementaire*—and to refurbish it with a decor evoking the early 20th century.

Private functions in the restaurants

During the past year, close to 100 private businesses and organizations held functions at *Le Parlementaire* restaurant. They were thus able to enjoy meals in the unique Beaux-Arts decor of *Le Parlementaire* and guided tours of the Parliament Building.

Did you know?

Café du Parlement, now located on the former site of *Le Mini-Débat*, boasts an up-to-date concept based on sustainable development and eco-friendly use of recycled and biodegradable materials, as well as a menu geared toward healthy eating.

Did you know?

Le Café du Parlement and *Le Parlementaire* serve over 100,000 meals a year.

Theme brunches at *Le Parlementaire* restaurant

The National Assembly sought to take advantage of the crowds attending Québec City's 400th anniversary festivities to welcome as many visitors as possible, introducing them to *Le Parlementaire* restaurant and its architecturally distinctive setting. Four theme brunches were presented. A Mother's Day brunch—a resounding success—joined traditional brunches held during the Québec Winter Carnival and on major summer holidays such as Québec's national holiday and the New France Festival. Nearly 1,400 diners in all enjoyed these brunches.

The leaders' debate at *Le Parlementaire* restaurant

For the second time in two years, Québec's three main political parties held their traditional leaders' debate at Le Parlementaire; the 2008 debate took place during the election campaign, on November 25.

Did you know?

Official activities

In addition to the official visits of legislative delegations, interparliamentary groups, government representatives and international organizations, the National Assembly also played host to five cultural communities, 29 official activities or ceremonies and five diplomatic visits.

A FORUM FOR EXCHANGES

A welcome for cultural communities

Visits to the National Assembly allow the members of Québec's cultural communities to become familiar with this democratic institution, to meet the President and parliamentarians and to improve their knowledge of the history of Québec and of parliamentarism.

Cultural communities that visited Parliament in 2008–2009	
Himalayan community	April 3, 2008
Bulgarian community	April 10, 2008
Guinean community	April 17, 2008
Austrian community	April 24, 2008
Tunisian community	May 1, 2008

Did you know?

Personnel from the **National Assembly's Protocol Directorate** took part in 133 activities that saw some 13,600 persons welcomed to the Parliament Building.

6th Political Book Day in Québec

Québec City's 400th anniversary provided the theme for the 6th Political Book Day on April 15, 2008, as Michel Bissonnet, President of the National Assembly, announced names of literary award winners and finalists during a ceremony at the National Assembly Library. The awards, which increase public awareness of political titles as a literary genre and confer prestige on the efforts of authors and students to further knowledge of politically related topics, were presented to

- **Jean-Claude Corbeil**, Prix de la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale, valued at $5,000, for his work *L'embarras des langues: origine, conception et évolution de la politique linguistique québécoise*

- **Ève Lamoureux**, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, valued at $3,000, for her doctoral dissertation, *Art et politique: l'engagement chez les artistes actuels en arts visuels au Québec*. She also received the Prix Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/Ministère des Affaires étrangères de France, which includes a bursary to cover a one-week stay in Paris on the occasion in 2010 of the Journée du Livre Politique organized by the National Assembly of France

- **Isabelle Roy**, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, valued at $2,000, for a Master's thesis entitled *Anthropologie historique de la culture politique: le cas du rituel de la récitation de la prière au Parlement du Québec, 1793-1976*

A half century of women in politics

On May 7, 2008, the National Assembly paid tribute to women in politics at a round table that brought together current and former parliamentarians from the three political parties.

With Fatima Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President of the National Assembly, serving as honorary president, the round table included Marie Grégoire, Linda Goupil, Lise Bacon, Lise Thériault, Linda Lapointe and Louise Harel. An audience of nearly 300 came to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the panel discuss women's progress in politics over nearly 50 years.

In addition, the First Vice-President of the National Assembly announced the publication of *Les députées de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec: engagées dans l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes*, which profiles women elected to Parliament since 1961. An unedited video was shown featuring an interview with Marie-Claire Kirkland, the first female Parliament Member and cabinet member in the Government of Québec.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHANNEL

30th anniversary of televised broadcasting of parliamentary debates

Direct televised broadcasts of Québec National Assembly debates began on October 3, 1978. To mark the 30 year anniversary of this pivotal event, the National Assembly Channel offered viewers four days of special programming (October 3 through 6), beginning with a complete rebroadcast of the first period of Routine Proceedings shown in 1978, as well as all of the first Oral Question and Answer periods that followed each general election thereafter.

A reminder of the leading political issues of the past 30 years and the debates between the political figures who instigated them, the excerpts were provided with context by librarian and historian Martin Pelletier. They represented a singular viewing opportunity for all who are students of history and politics.

A channel that is always growing and evolving

This anniversary presented an opportunity to spotlight the remarkable progress made in telecasting debates. At the outset, broadcasts consisted only of National Assembly sessions, aired in full. The subsequent presentation of standing committee sessions, press conferences, press briefings and special activities helped accelerate the development of the channel and its programming.

In addition, the National Assembly took advantage of the special 30th anniversary programming to promote a new service, the channel's integration into the Assembly website (**www.assnat.qc.ca**). Now a greater number of Quebecers—and viewers from all over the world—have unfettered access to parliamentary proceedings. This innovation also attests to the technological development that has been ongoing since the earliest televised debate broadcasts.

New broadcasts from the series *Mémoires de députés*

The channel covers all National Assembly parliamentary and institutional activities and also presents high quality in-house productions. Among the latter is *Mémoires de députés*, a series that began in 2006, in which former parliamentarians recount memorable experiences from their political careers.

The series, which airs Sundays at 7:00 p.m. on the National Assembly Channel, began its third season in 2008–2009 and has presented 21 original programs. Former parliamentarians appearing during the past year have included Madeleine Bélanger, Clément Vincent, Antoine Drolet, Rodrigue Biron, Jacques Brassard, Denis Hardy, Marcel Masse and Lucien Lessard. The series is available online at **www.assnat.qc.ca** in the video and audio archives.

Did you know?

Each year, the National Assembly Channel airs over 2,000 hours of parliamentary debate, special activities and thematic broadcasting. A multidisciplinary team of producers, camera operators, audio mixers and editors has made the channel an indispensible resource for viewers who want to **follow parliamentary proceedings live or after the fact**.

Filming of an interview with the former Member for Montréal-Sainte-Marie, Yvon Dupuis, for the "Mémoires de députés" series

Did you know?

As of February 4, 2009, 44 former parliamentarians had been interviewed for the series ***Mémoires de deputes*** and their interviews used to produce 60 programs that have been shown since 2006. The first program in the series, broadcast on October 29, 2006, featured Paul Gérin-Lajoie.

Did you know?

Cyril Duquet's clock strikes its 120th anniversary. The clock in the Parliament Building central tower turned 120 years old in 2008. The work of Cyril Duquet, it has not been overhauled since its installation in 1888. National Assembly clockkeeper André Viger climbs the 160 or so steps of the tower's spiral staircase three times a week to wind the clock's weights and ensure that it keeps proper time.

À la découverte de l'Assemblée: four new vignettes

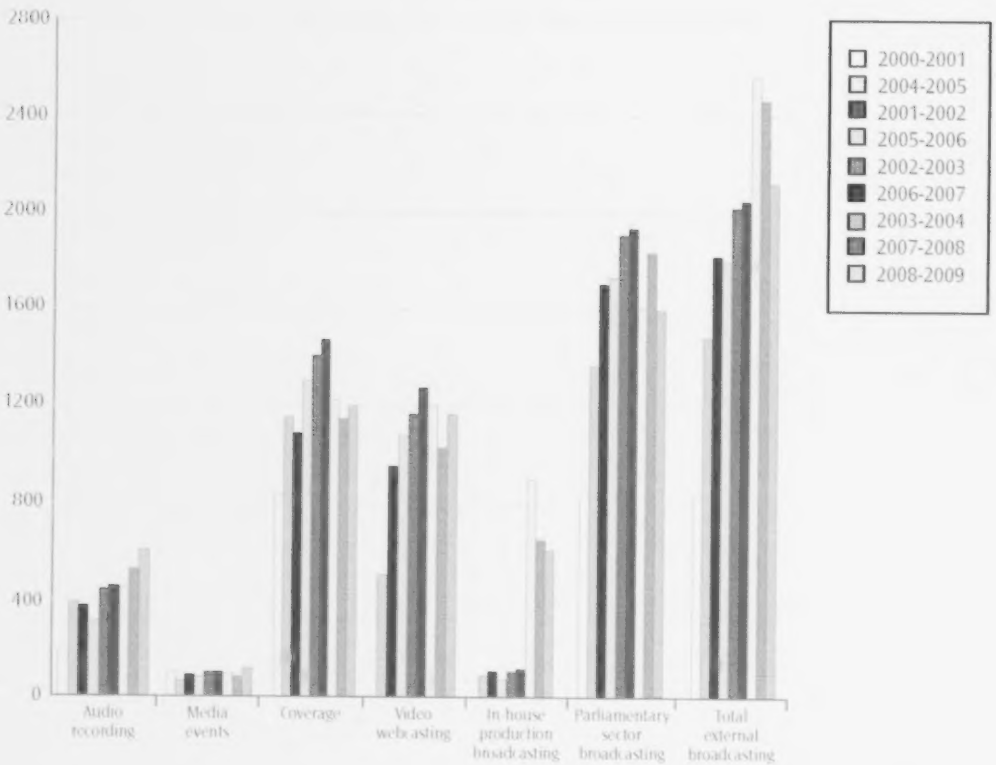
Four new information vignettes in the series *À la découverte de l'Assemblée* enriched channel programming. Two of them, devoted to the importance of time in parliamentary life, featured various clocks that adorn the National Assembly. Another described the objectives of the Research Chair on Democracy and the fourth recounted the history of the Library of the National Assembly.

Video coverage

Video coverage service	Number of activities	Duration (hr.)
Televised coverage	744	1,205:52
Recording	76	286:45.
Audio recording	249	591:25
Digital recording, *Journal des débats* [Hansard]	733	1,229:34

National Assembly Channel		Number of activities	Duration (hr.)
Parliamentary activities	Parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and press briefings	1,008	1,606:10
In-house production	Vignettes *À la découverte de l'Assemblée*	–	197:30
	Mémoires de députés	–	275:08
	Members' holiday greetings (Québec's national holiday and Christmas holidays)	–	37:27
	Special programming, 30 years of televised debate broadcasts	–	76:29
Total external broadcasting			2,116:15
Continuous electronic hosting			6,643:44
Total broadcasting for the National Assembly Channel			8,760

National Assembly Channel Broadcasting (in hours)



Did you know?

The ***Journal des débats* is 45 years old!** Following a trial run in 1963, its first issue was officially published on January 14, 1964, as the third session of the 27th legislature got under way, and transcriptions were printed verbatim until 1981. *Journal des débats* originally featured National Assembly debates but added full transcriptions of standing committee proceedings on March 19, 1965.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

In democratic systems based on the separation of powers, parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism. The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution in international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by having delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the Assembly. Over the years, the Assembly has developed an extensive network of multilateral and bilateral interparliamentary relationships.

The objectives of the interparliamentary and international relations of the National Assembly

The National Assembly's interparliamentary and international relations are based on four major objectives:

1. Reinforce the effectiveness of the parliamentary institution and elected officials in their duties as legislators, overseers of government actions, defenders of the public interest and representatives
2. Improve the position of the National Assembly on the international scene and its institutional reach within interparliamentary networks
3. Actively participate in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity
4. Broaden the reach of Québec society, particularly by promoting its sectors of excellence

MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)

The National Assembly of Québec is very active within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF), an important forum for discussing themes that are close to the hearts of elected officials in Québec, including culture, education and parliamentary democracy.

On the occasion of Québec City's 400th anniversary, the National Assembly hosted the 34th Session of the APF from July 1 to 8, 2008. The event was a resounding success and enjoyed the participation of over 50 sections and some 450 delegates. The Americas Regional Assembly also met from June 30 to July 2 for its 24th Session.

Parliamentarians meeting in Québec City discussed themes making the news, such as the environment and social development, the world food crisis, crises in the French-speaking world and action taken by the Francophonie with regard to education, training and the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Speaking on the occasion of the general debate, the National Assembly President, Michel Bissonnet, noted the need to strike a balance between economic and social prosperity on the one hand and preserving the environment and its resources on the other.

Michel Bissonnet

In a plenary session, the French-speaking parliamentarians passed a number of resolutions on issues like migration policies within

the French-speaking world, multilateral trade negotiations within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the promotion of the French language in a multilingual world, politics in the French-speaking world, the food crisis and high living costs and the environment and social development. Parliamentarians also adopted a statement for presentation at the 12th Francophonie Summit. The statement addressed major Summit themes as well as the Francophonie's ten-year strategic framework.

The Conference of Presiding Officers of La Francophonie was also held during the 34th Session of the APF on July 4 at the invitation of the President of the National Assembly of Québec. The subject of the conference was legislative assembly presiding officers and ways to bolster parliamentary democracy. Forty-four APF presidents and vice-presidents accepted the invitation.

A Member from the Québec section of the APF also took part in the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization, jointly organized by the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament in Geneva, Switzerland, on September 11 and 12, 2008. A Québec Member was also a speaker at a Network of Women Parliamentarians information and awareness seminar on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Nouakchott, Mauritania, May 20 to 22, 2008.

In addition, the new President of the National Assembly, Yvon Vallières, took part in the APF Executive Meeting, which on this particular occasion was held at United Nations headquarters in New York City from January 20 to 23, 2009. One purpose of the meeting was to draw attention to parliamentarians' desire to see French and other languages used in international organizations.

APF

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie). Founded in 1967, composed of 77 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations from all over the world (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie Office, July 2, 2008.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

CPA

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Founded in 1911, composed of 170 parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 53 countries forming the Commonwealth (National Assembly: full member since 1937)

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

The National Assembly represented the Canadian region of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Network at the 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from August 1 to 10, 2008. The National Assembly representative's term as chair of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Network for the Canadian region and Vice-President of the APC's Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Network has now come to an end. The National Assembly also participated in the 46th Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA, which ran from July 21 to 27, 2008, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Its representative gave a presentation on parliaments and sustainable development.

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

COPA continued implementation of its electoral observation mission program, begun in 2005, which affords parliamentarians the opportunity to develop expertise in electoral processes, all while cementing the organization's strategic role in promoting and consolidating democracy in the Americas.

The National Assembly took part in two COPA electoral observation missions in the past year, in Paraguay in April 2008 and in El Salvador in March 2009. Both missions were organized by the Québec Secretariat of COPA, which is headquartered at the National Assembly, with the collaboration of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec. They were aimed at providing an on-the-ground look at how preparations for elections were coming along and to observe the conduct of the elections on election day. In the mission's report to Paraguay's electoral officials, mission members, while stressing the exemplary conduct of the elections, made a number of recommendations, including that Paraguay improve the accuracy of its voters list to boost public confidence and that of other political parties and that it clearly set out the role, duties and rights of the forces of law and order in voting centres.

COPA

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: Created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas

A delegation of parliamentarians from the National Assembly took part in 7th General Assembly of COPA and the 7th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas from September 9 to 13, 2008, in Mexico City and Toluca, Mexico, which played host to close to 200 parliamentarians from some 20 countries across the Americas. The National Assembly was entrusted with a Senior Vice-President position within the organization for 2008–2010, in addition to retaining positions of responsibility on COPA's working committees and the Network of Women Parliamentarians. More than ten resolutions were adopted after the meeting, which was a showcase for Québec expertise in political funding and cultural diversity. For their part, the women parliamentarians in attendance completed their work on human trafficking.

American Interparliamentary Organizations (ERC, CSG, NCSL)

The National Assembly of Québec continued its work within the interparliamentary organizations of the United States, which offer valuable opportunities for Québec's elected officials to discuss issues of concern to them and to defend the interests of Québec, mostly in the fields of energy, the environment, agriculture, health, education and relations between Québec and the United States.

Through its collaboration with the Council of State Governments (CSG) throughout 2008 and its Eastern Regional Conference (ERC), where it holds positions of responsibility, the National Assembly continued to work with American parliamentarians on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), climate change and greenhouse gas reduction. A delegation of Québec parliamentarians attended the 48th Annual Meeting of the ERC from August 9 to 13, 2008, in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

At the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) in New Orleans, Louisiana, from July 20 to 26, 2008, a Québec Member had his term on the NCSL executive committee renewed for a fourth consecutive year. The National Assembly is the only international associated member to sit on the executive committee of the NCSL. Québec's action with regard to immigration initiatives was presented during a working meeting.

CSG

Council of State Governments: Organization created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly: international associated member since 1995)

BILATERAL RELATIONS

The National Assembly's bilateral relations, through the contacts they foster between parliamentarians and the similarities in political and socioeconomic issues they address, contribute both to research into best practices abroad (be they institutional, legislative, cultural or social) and to positioning the National Assembly as a key player in sectors where Québec has proven expertise.

In May 2008 the National Assembly welcomed a delegation from the French Senate's France-Québec Interparliamentary Group led by its President, Senator and former Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin. Discussions mainly touched on government policy to support research and development.

The 21st and 22nd Sessions of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee were both held in a relatively short space of time. The 21st Session, which took place in Québec in July 2008, looked at demographic aging and the financing of higher education. The following Session, held in Paris in September 2008, dealt with biodiversity conservation and research and innovation policies.

From May 12 to 16, 2008, the President of the National Assembly, Michel Bissonnet, received his counterpart from the Landtag of Bavaria, Alois Glück, on the occasion of the 4th Meeting of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee, held at the Parliament Building. The parliamentarians discussed immigration, immigrant integration and early childhood services.

ERC/CSG

Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: Organization that constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives of the Northeastern United States as well as the five Canadian member provinces (National Assembly: international associated member since 1990)

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

NCSL

National Conference of State Legislatures: American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly: international associated member since 2000)

On May 2 and 3, 2008, parliamentarians from the Canada-Germany Friendship Group from the Bundestag, Germany's lower house of Parliament, came to meet their Québec counterparts at the National Assembly. And on September 4, 2008, members of the Committee for Civil Affairs from Sweden's Parliament (Riksdag) took part in a joint working meeting with Québec Members on social housing policies and programs.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For several years now, the National Assembly has been providing technical support to the parliamentary institutions of emerging and consolidating democracies, thus fostering their reinforcement at both the parliamentary and administrative levels. These interparliamentary cooperation activities actively support these partner institutions as they take charge of their own development programs.

This year the National Assembly carried out various activities with the Parliament of the Republic of Haiti in collaboration with Canada's Parliamentary Centre. In particular, it led a second technical support mission from November 24 to 28, 2008 for the transcription and broadcast of sessions of the Haitian Parliament in Port-au-Prince. Between February 9 and 20, 2009, the National Assembly also conducted a training seminar for plenary assembly and parliamentary committee staff at the Haitian Parliament.

Over the course of the year, the National Assembly also played a key role within the Association des secrétaires généraux des parlements francophones (Association of Secretaries General from French-Speaking Parliaments, ASGPF) and hosted the Association's General Meeting on September 4 and 5, 2008, at which the Secretary General of the National Assembly, François Côté, was elected president of the Association.

OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City. Among them in 2008–2009, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

Official visits of Assembly Presidents

- Kenneth R. Kowalski, Speaker of Legislative Assembly of Alberta
- Alois Glück, President of the Landtag of Bavaria
- Christos Doulkeridis, President of the French-Speaking Brussels Parliament

- Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of National Assembly of Burkina Faso
- Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada
- Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada
- Ernest Benach, President of the Parliament of Catalonia
- Jean-François Istasse, President of the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium
- Bernard Accoyer, President of the National Assembly of the French Republic
- René Radembino Coniquet, President of the Senate of the Gabonese Republic
- Guy Nzouba-Ndama, President of the National Assembly of Gabon and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie
- Kelly C. Bastien, President of the Senate of the Republic of Haiti
- Katalin Szili, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary
- François-Xavier Boillat, President of the Parliament of the Republic and District of Jura
- Rajkeswur Gosk Purryag, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mauritius
- Stephane Valeri, President of the National Council of the Principality of Monaco
- Mahamane Ousmane, President of the National Assembly of Niger
- Roy Boudreau, Speaker of Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
- Alfie MacLeod, Speaker of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly
- Macky Sall, President of the National Assembly of Senegal
- André Bugnon, President of the National Council of Switzerland
- Nassour Guelengdouksia Ouaïdou, President of the National Assembly of Chad
- El Hadj Abass Bonfoh, President of the National Assembly of Togo

Official visits of parliamentarians

- 34th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie
- 24th Session of the Americas Regional Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie
- 4th Session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee
- 5th Annual Meeting of the French Senate and the National Assembly of Québec
- 11th Session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee
- Delegation from the German Bundestag's Canada-Germany Friendship Group
- Delegation from the French-Speaking Brussels Parliament
- Delegation from the Scottish Parliament
- Delegation from France's Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Delegation from the Committee for Civil Affairs from the Parliament (Riksdag) of the Kingdom of Sweden
- Delegation from the Budget, Finance and Equipment Committee of the Walloon Parliament

Official visits of representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations

- Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic
- Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile
- Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF)
- Alain Juppé, former Prime Minister of the French Republic and Mayor of Bordeaux
- Günther Beckstein, Minister-President of Bavaria
- Jürgen W. Heike, Minister of State for Internal Affairs of Bavaria
- Jordi Ausàs i Coll, Minister of Governance and Public Administration of Catalonia
- José Luis Exeni Rodriguez, Chair of the National Electoral Court of the Republic of Bolivia

HERITAGE

HERITAGE

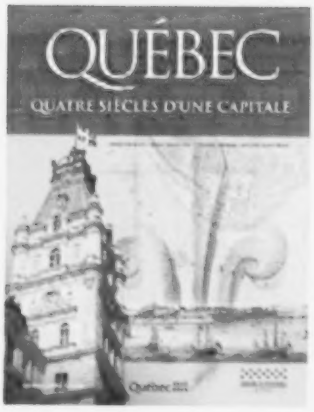
DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

Michel Bissonnet's portrait joins the Presidents' Gallery

On March 31, 2009, Yvon Vallières, President of the National Assembly of Québec, unveiled a photo portrait of Michel Bissonnet, 42nd president of the National Assembly from June 4, 2003, to July 14, 2008. Daniel Lessard, the photographer, also attended the ceremony, which took place in the Presidents' Gallery. It was Mr. Bissonnet's wish that photography, traditionally employed in the first half of the 20th century, be used for his portrait.

Launching of *Québec : quatre siècles d'une capitale*

Authors Christian Blais, Gilles Gallichan, Frédéric Lemieux and Jocelyn Saint-Pierre received a Québec City 400th Anniversary commemorative medallion for their book, *Québec. Quatre siècles d'une capitale*.



The President of the National Assembly of Québec, Michel Bissonnet, and representatives of Les Publications du Québec launched the book *Québec: Quatre siècles d'une capitale* at the *Salon international du livre de Québec* book fair on April 17, 2008. This expansive and attractive volume, produced in conjunction with the National Assembly's special program of activities for Québec City's 400th anniversary, attests to the institution's commitment to promote our heritage and disseminate knowledge of our history and politics.

The book, which depicts 400 years of political history in a city rich in symbolism, is both an enjoyable read and a reference work for those eager to learn more about political life in Québec over the last four centuries.

With nearly 700 pages and 500 original illustrations, the book represents three years of work by authors and historians Christian Blais, Gilles Gallichan, Frédéric Lemieux and Jocelyn Saint-Pierre. They write passionately about our earliest days and unearth a host of unusual findings. In fact, the authors were awarded the Québec City 400th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion on December 9, 2008 for the history input they provided for the festivities. This medallion—only 100 of which were produced—pays tribute to the outstanding efforts by selected recipients in promoting Québec City's 400th anniversary and contributing to the development of the capital.

The book—reprinted three times since April 2008—has been a bookstore hit and earned its four authors the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly, awarded by President Michel Bissonnet on May 1, 2008. The Medal of Honour is bestowed by the National Assembly on recipients deemed worthy of recognition by all the institution's parliamentarians.

Cap-aux-Diamants magazine devotes a special issue to the political history of Québec City

On August 13, 2008, Fatima Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President of the Québec National Assembly, presented a special issue of the magazine *Cap-aux-Diamants* to the Library of the National Assembly as part of the latter's special program for the 400th anniversary of Québec City. The presentation, during the 74th annual congress of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), took place at the meeting of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section. The special issue, dedicated to the city's political history, was titled *Québec 1608–2008: quatre cents ans d'histoire politique*. Most of its articles—edited by National Assembly historians Frédéric Lemieux, Jocelyn Saint-Pierre, Gilles Gallichan and Christian Blais—expand upon the insights in their book, *Québec : Quatre siècles d'une capitale*.

L'hôtel du Parlement, mémoire du Québec awarded a Prix Zénith

L'hôtel du Parlement, mémoire du Québec, a critically acclaimed work recounting the history of Québec City through its Parliament Building, was published as the city's 400th anniversary celebrations got under way and later received a Prix Zénith in the prestige publication category. The Zénith awards, conferred by the Québec Government's *Forum des responsables des communications*, showcase praiseworthy public sector communications. The jury hailed the book's high quality and handsome graphics, noting that it filled a collective need. The book was also praised for its timely contribution to raising Québec City's profile during its 400th anniversary year.

Library Collections and Virtual Library

As at March 31, 2009, over 2 million documents could be consulted at the Library, broken down as Follows

Printed	
Monographs	490,727
Magazines	283,478
Newspapers	702,648
Microform records	
Microfilms	36,633
Microfiches	570,017
Electronic documents (on-line, CD-ROMs)	6,100
Audio recordings	185
Videocassettes	875
Posters, maps and photographs	941
Total	2,091,604

A Few Figures

In 2008–2009, Reference Service personnel answered 9,414 information and search requests. Of this number, 3,700 were made by parliamentarians, their staffs, personnel of the National Assembly or organizations under the authority of the Assembly.

Over 10,000 people came to the Library, either as users, guests at special events or simply as visitors.

ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

Bust of Samuel de Champlain unveiled

A bronze bust of Samuel de Champlain was given by the speaker of the Senate of Canada, the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, to the President of the National Assembly, Michel Bissonnet, on May 26, 2008, to mark the 400th anniversary of Québec City.

Mr. Bissonnet commented that the gift honoured both the memory of the famed explorer and the presence of the French in North America. Mr. Kinsella, in reply, stated that the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent French settlement at Québec was an event deserving commemoration, and that it was in this spirit that the Senate of Canada wished to pay tribute to Samuel de Champlain.

The statue is the work of artist Alfred Laliberté, who created the plaster model in about 1930. The bust was cast in bronze in 2003 at the Inverness Art Foundry near Thetford Mines. Examples of Alfred Laliberté's foremost works also decorate the Parliament Building façade in Québec City. The bust is on display inside Parliament, between the National Assembly and Legislative Council Chambers.

Remembrance Tree planting

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune celebrated the Mois de l'arbre by presenting 60-centimetre red oak and sugar maple saplings to 400 National Assembly employees, members and political staff. In honour of the city's 400th anniversary, a yellow birch—Québec's provincial tree—was planted on the National Assembly grounds near the statue of Jean Lesage in a ceremony attended by President Michel Bissonnet. "The 400th anniversary Remembrance Tree will bear witness to memorable encounters for generations to come," said Jean Leclerc, chair of the board of the Société du 400e anniversaire de Québec.

Eighth phase of Parliament Building office restoration

In all, 28 of the 310 offices reserved for parliamentarians and their staffs have been restored. This effort—the first total office renovation since the Parliament Building was constructed over 120 years ago—has been long overdue.

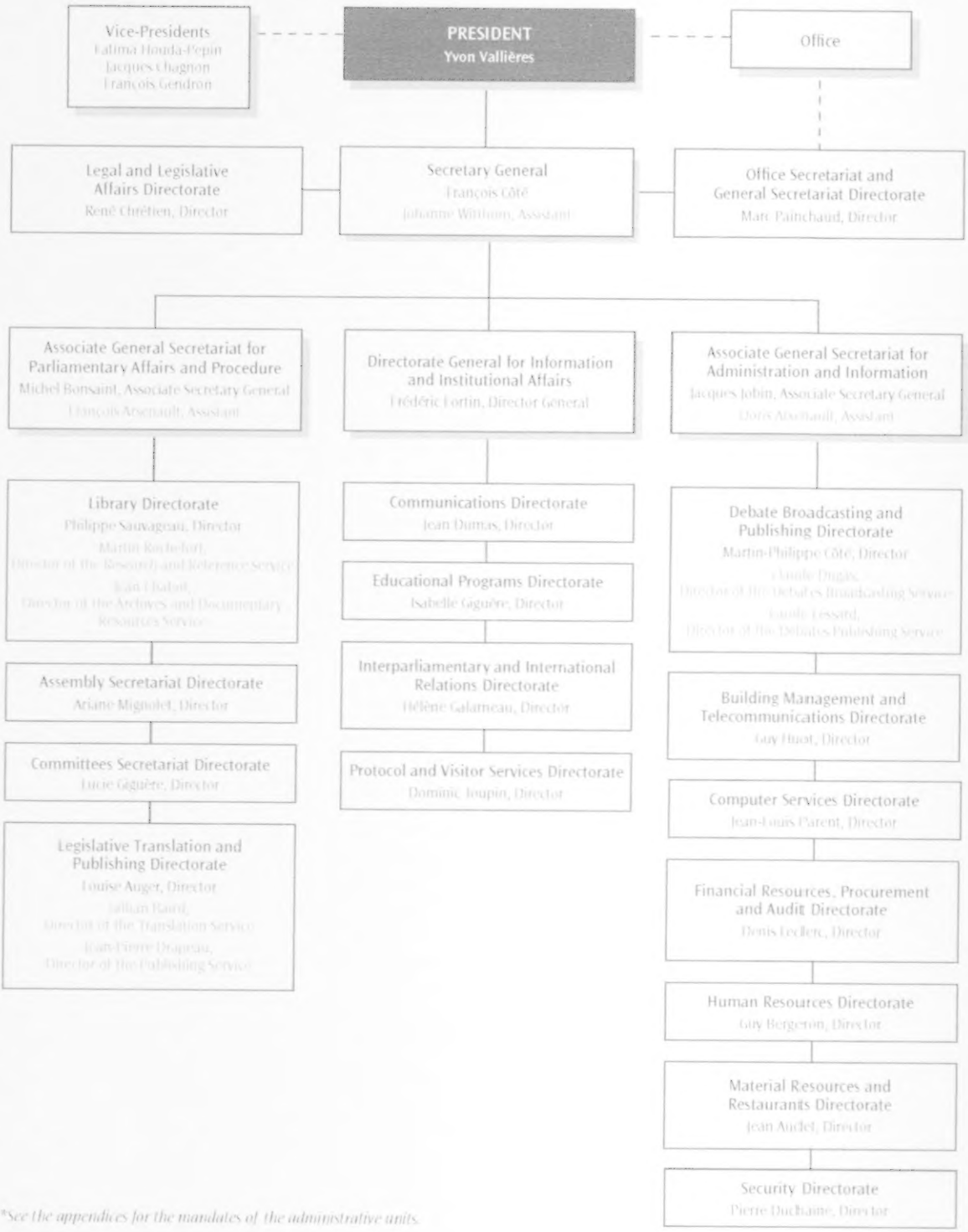
Did you know?

In 2008–2009, the Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate handled some 9,600 service requests from the political and administrative sectors of the National Assembly, ranging from plumbing and electrical work to furniture, kitchen equipment and telecommunication equipment repairs.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AS AT MARCH 31, 2009*



**See the appendices for the mandates of the administrative units.*

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly is administered within the framework of the statutes, regulations and rules to which it is subject. To preserve its administrative autonomy, the *Act respecting the National Assembly* established the Office of the National Assembly, which acts as its administrative board and passes any regulation it deems necessary for operation of the Assembly. It must, among other duties, approve the Assembly's budgetary estimates and regulate matters of immediate concern to Members, such as their allowances and working conditions.

The Office of the National Assembly

Chair of the Office: Yvon Vallières

Members:

QLP	PQ	ADQ
Stéphane Billette	Nicolas Girard	Janvier Grondin
Germain Chevarie	Bertrand Saint-Arnaud	
Yvon Marcoux	Claude Pinard	
Michel Matte		
Filomena Rotiroti		

Substitute members:

QLP	PQ	ADQ
Daniel Bernard	Marjolain Dufour	François Bonnardel
Lucie Charlebois	Nicole Léger	
Johanne Gonthier	Lorraine Richard	
Pierre Moreau		
Pierre Reid		

PERSONNEL

Our staff

To carry out its mission, the National Assembly has a workforce of 640 employees—549 regular employees and 71 casual workers. Its political staff of executive assistants, political aides and advisors and support staff totals 430 people, divided between Parliament Hill and Members' riding offices.

Administrative staff, by age group

Age 35 and under	23%
Age 36 - 40	10%
Age 41 - 45	13%
Age 46 - 50	17%
Age 51 - 55	18%
Age 56 and over	19%

Administrative staff, by employment category

- Executives
- Professionals
- Public servants
- Workers
- Peace officers

Women	50.8%
Men	49.2%

A quarter century of commitment

On December 12, 2008, a ceremony was held in the company of the President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. François Gendron, and the Secretary General to celebrate the dedication of personnel who have worked in the Québec National Assembly or as public servants for 25 years. Louise Auger, Lucille Bigaouette, Francine Boivin Lamarche, Michèle Vachon, Doris Arsenault, Donald Chouinard, Gaëtan Poulin and Mario Raymond were all honoured at the event.

Employees with 25 years of service at the National Assembly or in the public service, from left to right: Doris Arsenault, Francine Boivin Lamarche, Louise Auger and Michèle Vachon, Gaëtan Poulin and Mario Raymond (absent: Lucille Bigaouette and Donald Chouinard).

Collective painting by the Computer Services Directorate to raise funds for Entraide.

Professional development: parliamentary procedure training

In 2008–2009, parliamentary personnel once again responded to various requests for staff training from Québec departments and agencies and from universities. A training session on parliamentary procedure was held for the professional staff of the Ministère du Revenu and of the Auditor General.

A number of information sessions on parliamentary procedure were also held for public service managers and students enrolled in certain university courses.

A sweet treats sale to raise funds for Entraide.

Entraide 2008 campaign

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of public and parapublic sector fundraising campaigns. This year the National Assembly had to take a different approach to the campaign because of the general election. Its determined 2008 Entraide committee found a way to participate by suggesting new activities.

In addition to a luncheon fundraiser to mark the session start, a friendly competition was held between the various directorates, all of which responded enthusiastically to the challenge. With each determined to outdo the other, the administrative units organized a drive for donations, a shaved head challenge, sporting and art events and Christmas candy sales. Payroll deductions and a much appreciated donation of funds raised by the administrative staff Christmas party planning committee through the *sous noirs* drive brought the total up to $28,151.78, an impressive amount that would not have been possible without the generosity of our staff.

The National Assembly cares about employee well-being

Vaccination clinic and blood drive

On June 11, 2008, 43 employees gave the gift of life by generously donating blood as part of the Héma Québec blood drive. Shortly thereafter, some 180 National Assembly employees protected themselves against the flu by getting vaccinated as part of our annual flu vaccination campaign held on November 11 and 20, 2008.

Our employees are in tip-top shape!

On October 10, 2008, some 30 National Assembly employees joined in a friendly game of soccer and a 30-minute hike in honour of the 4th Journée nationale du sport et de l'activité physique.

Did you know?

The joint committee on occupational health and safety (OHS), which is made up of 12 management and union members, met in December 2008 for the 50th time since its founding in 2003 to take stock of the past five years. In addition to being shortlisted for the *Hommage à un bâtisseur 2009* award presented by the Association paritaire pour la santé et la sécurité du travail secteur administration provinciale (APSSAP), some of the committee's other successes include the installation of a more discreet bell in the Parliament Building, increased security in the Parliament Building coatroom and the purchase of an electric cart for moving IT equipment.

The committee's prevention measures and recommendations not only serve National Assembly workers, but also parliamentarians, their political staff and our many visitors.

Our staff is well equipped

Customer support service

The Computer Services Directorate's customer support service assists Assembly staff in maintaining and improving their office and information technology skills, particularly by holding a number of training sessions on a wide variety of topics. The emergency support team provides technical support for the administrative units that participate in parliamentary work.

Again in 2008–2009, the customer support service of the Computer Services Directorate fulfilled its mission of responding to all service requests from the political and administrative staff of the National Assembly.

Customer support at a glance	
Indexed calls for assistance (telephone)	13,180
Other service calls received	3,000
Emergency service	31
Days of training (including SAGIR training)	74

In total, 38 days of IT training were held. Parliamentarians and their personnel received 44% of this training, which accounted for 51% of all courses given.

Did you know?

The National Assembly's political and administrative staff use a total of 10,365 microcomputers—263 of which are laptops—and 519 printers.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EXPENDITURES (2008-2009)

	Expenditure ($000)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND LEGAL AFFAIRS			
Office of the Secretary General	1,257.5	13	0
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	400.5	5	0
	1,658.0	18	0
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LIBRARY			
Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure	650.9	9	0
Library Directorate	5,183.0	80	2
House Secretariat Directorate	595.8	10	3
Committees Secretariat Directorate	1,082.6	20	1
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	447.8	17	0
	7,960.1	136	6
INFORMATION AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS			
Directorate General for Information and Institutional Affairs	190.8	5	0
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	2,324.4	35	5
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	1,880.3	23	0
Communications Directorate	1,080.9	20	1
Educational Programs Directorate	681.9	8	0
	6,158.3	91	6
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS AND SECURITY			
Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information	545.1	5	0
Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate	4,113.3	57	29
Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate	8,680.6	31	1
Computer Services Directorate	4,058.4	45	0
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,397.7	27	0
Human Resources Directorate	9,260.0	22	0
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	3,934.7	89	16
Security Directorate	4,169.4	75	13
	36,159.2	304	59
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS	62,073.9		
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	4,388.5		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**118,398.0**	**549**	**71**

* Authorized FTEs (full-time equivalents)

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

BILLS PASSED

38th Legislature

Government bills (passed)

22	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning Montréal (*modified title*)
40	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act to amend the Act respecting municipal courts, the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions
47	CPI	An Act respecting the transfer of securities and the establishment of security entitlements (*modified title*)
54	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act and other legislative provisions
55	CTE	An Act to again amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions
60	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act
61	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec and the Act respecting the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage
62	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie des installations olympiques
63	CSA	An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms
64	CPI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Autorité des marchés financiers and other legislative provisions
68	CSA	An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and other legislative provisions
69	CI	An Act to amend the Election Act and other legislative provisions
70	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services, the Health Insurance Act and the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
71	CPI	An Act to amend the Auditor General Act and other legislative provisions
72	CAH	Crop Health Protection Act
73	CPI	Real Estate Brokerage Act
75	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions
77	CPI	Derivatives Act
78		Appropriation Act No. 2, 2008-2009
80	CPI	An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act
81	CAH	An Act to modernize the governance of La Financière agricole du Québec

82	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs
86	CPI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Government and Public Employees Retirement Plan and other legislation concerning pension plans in the public sector
87	CII	An Act to establish a mining heritage fund
88	CE	An Act to amend the Education Act and other legislative provisions (*modified title*)
93	CPP	An Act to amend the Charter of Ville de Québec
95	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting medical laboratories, organ, tissue, gamete and embryo conservation, and the disposal of human bodies
98	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards principally with regard to reservists

Government bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee (when the 38th Legislature was dissolved)

7	CI	An Act respecting the Compilation of Québec Laws and Regulations
23	CSA	An Act respecting clinical and research activities relating to assisted procreation
36	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting transport infrastructure partnerships and other legislative provisions
37	CPI	An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 24 May 2007, to the 1 June 2007 Ministerial Statement Concerning the Government's 2007-2008 Budgetary Policy and to certain other budget statements
50	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions in the field of mental health and human relations
59	CTE	An Act respecting the boundaries of water property in the domain of the State and the protection of wetlands along part of the Rivière Richelieu
65	CPI	An Act respecting the application of the Act to establish a legal framework for information technology
67	CSA	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning health
79	CPI	An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other fiscal legislative provisions
89	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and other legislative provisions
91	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting municipal courts with regard to court security
92	CTE	An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection
94	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec
96	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting transportation services by taxi

99	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure to prevent abusive use of the courts and promote freedom of expression and citizen participation in public debate
100	CI	An Act to establish the Office Québec-Monde pour la jeunesse and to amend various legislative provisions
105	CI	An Act to provide for the implementation of the Entente entre le Québec et la France en matière de reconnaissance mutuelle des qualifications professionnelles

Government bills at the stage of passage in principle (when the 38th Legislature was dissolved)

48		An Act to amend the Act respecting municipal courts and other legislative provisions
53		An Act respecting the Agence de gestion des structures routières du Québec
66		An Act respecting the Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale
83	CSA	An Act to establish a caregiver support fund
84	CSA	An Act to establish an early childhood development fund
85		An Act to amend the Balanced Budget Act and other legislative provisions
90		An Act to amend various legislative provisions principally with regard to the process of negotiation and certain conditions of engagement in the film industry
97	CAFT	An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act
101		An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act
104		An Act respecting the Institut national des mines
106		An Act to promote action by the Administration with respect to cultural diversity
107		An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level and the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance
109		An Act to amend the Securities Act and other legislative provisions
110		An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance

Private Members' public bills at the stage of passage in principle (when the 38th Legislature was dissolved)

190		An Act to repeal the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities
191		Constitution of Québec

192	An Act to amend the Labour Code
193	An Act to amend the Cinema Act
194	Phosphate-Free Detergents Act
195	Québec Identity Act
196	Québec Constitution
390	An Act to amend the Act respecting conditions of employment in the public sector
391	An Act to declare water a common heritage of the Québec nation
392	An Act to again amend the Health Insurance Act
393	An Act respecting the Agence québécoise du cancer
394	An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws
396	An Act to provide a framework for appointments to certain senior positions
397	An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards adoption
398	An Act to amend the Municipal Powers Act in order to allow the deferral of property tax increases caused by unequal variations in property values
399	Québec Public Sector Employees Disclosure Protection Act
490	An Act to amend the Taxation Act
491	An Act to amend the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities in order to bring the excluded lands back within the boundaries of the park

Private bills (passed)

214	CPP	An Act respecting the Régie intermunicipale des infrastructures portuaires de Trois-Pistoles et Les Escoumins
215	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Sherbrooke
217	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Huntingdon
218	CW	An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarvi
219	CPI	An Act respecting Investia Services Financiers inc.

Private bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee (when the 38th Legislature was dissolved)

201	CI	An Act respecting La Compagnie du cimetière Saint-Charles
205	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Caplan
216	CPP	An Act to amend the Charter of the City of Laval

39th Legislature

Government bills (passed)

1		CW An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act and other legislative provisions in order to reduce the effects of the financial crisis on plans covered by the Act
29		Appropriation Act No. 1, 2009-2010

Government bills at the stage of passage in principle

2		An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 24 May 2007, to the 1 June 2007 Ministerial Statement Concerning the Government's 2007-2008 Budgetary Policy and to certain other budget statements
3		An Act to provide for the implementation of the Entente entre le Québec et la France en matière de reconnaissance mutuelle des qualifications professionnelles and similar agreements
4		An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act
6	CSA	An Act to establish a seniors caregiver support fund
7	CSA	An Act to establish an early childhood development fund
8		An Act to amend the Securities Act and other legislative provisions
10		An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec
11		An Act to amend the Acts establishing Capital régional et coopératif Desjardins, Fondaction and the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec (FTQ)
13		An Act respecting the Institut national des mines
14		An Act to extend the terms of office of the board members of public health and social services institutions
15		An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting municipal courts with regard to court security
16		An Act to promote action by the Administration with respect to cultural diversity
17		An Act to establish the Office Québec-Monde pour la jeunesse and to amend various legislative provisions
18		An Act respecting the Compilation of Québec Laws and Regulations
20		An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting the Ministère de la Justice
21		An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions in the field of mental health and human relations
22		An Act respecting the governance of the Régie des rentes du Québec and amending various legislative provisions
24		An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning health
25	CH	An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act

27		An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection
28		An Act respecting the boundaries of the waters in the domain of the State and the protection of wetlands along part of the Rivière Richelieu
30		An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles
34		An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning specialized medical centres and medical imaging laboratories

Private Members' public bills at the stage of passage in principle

190		An Act to provide a framework for appointments to certain senior positions
191		An Act to amend the Auditor General Act

Private bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

200	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Malartic
201	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Boucherville
202	CPI	An Act respecting Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada
203	CC	An Act respecting the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec and the Fabrique de la paroisse de Saint-Dominique de Québec

MANDATES CARRIED OUT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Committee on the National Assembly

Establish the membership of the standing committees and the list of temporary chairmen (39th Legislature)

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies:

- Monitoring of major capital assets projects of the Government: Plans to modernize the Centres hospitaliers universitaires de Montréal (Chapter 7, Volume II, of the Auditor General's report, 2005-2006)
- Financial support to cultural enterprises (Revenue and SODEC) (Chapter 5, Volume III, of the Auditor General's report, 2007-2008)
- Procurement of medical equipment and supplies (Health and Social Services) (Chapter 2, Volume III, of the Auditor General's report, 2007-2008)

- The Auditor General's special report on the use of public funds by the former Lieutenant-Governor of Québec (Auditor General, Executive Council, former Lieutenant-Governor, Lieutenant-Governor)

Examination of financial commitments

Other mandates:

- Clarify the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of Mr. Bruno Fortier, Québec's former Delegate General in New York
- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 97, An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 5 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services, the Health Insurance Act and the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 68, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 23, An Act respecting clinical and research activities relating to assisted procreation
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 6, An Act to establish a seniors caregiver support fund (39th Legislature)

Interpellations:

- The state of Québec's health system
- The capital assets projects for the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Montréal (CHUM) and l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec

Government agency oversight:

- Corporation d'urgences-santé

Order of initiative:

- The phenomenon of homelessness in Québec (Order prorogued to the 39th Legislature)

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills, 3 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 93, An Act to amend the Charter of Ville de Québec

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Culture

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Interpellation:

- The situation of the French language in Québec

Government agency oversight:

- Office québécois de la langue française
- Commission de toponymie

Order of initiative:

- The dubbing of movies and television series available in Québec

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 88, An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting school elections (original title)

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Consultations:

- Special consultations on Québec's forest land occupancy and the establishment of forest development corporations
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 25, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act (39th Legislature)

Government agency oversight:

- Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 8 public bills, 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Interpellations:

- The deficiencies of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal modernization plan
- The funding of public-private partnerships within the context of the global financial crisis (39th Legislature)

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 77, Derivatives Act
- Special consultations with reference to the report on the implementation of the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act and the Code of Conduct for Lobbyists

Other mandates:

- Election of the Committee vice-chairman
- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)
- Continuation of the debate on the Budget Speech
- Hearing with the members of the Comité de travail sur l'évaluation du coût de l'indexation des régimes de retraite regarding their proceedings
- Examination of the activity reports of the Québec Lobbyists Commissioner for the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007
- Public hearings in relation to the results of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (39th Legislature)

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 7 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 60, An Act to amend the Police Act

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 99, An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure to prevent abusive use of the courts and promote freedom of expression and citizen participation in public debate
- General consultation with reference to the Evaluation report of the Act to reform the Code of Civil Procedure and the Report on strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP)
- Special consultations concerning the nature of the contract granted to Attractions Hippiques by the Government of Québec and the context in which it was signed

Interpellations:

- The state of public security in Québec
- The state of public security in Québec (2)
- The Federal Government's decisions and their effects on the financial situation of Québec (39th Legislature)

Other mandates:

- Election of the Committee vice-chairman
- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 92, An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 96, An Act to amend the Act respecting transportation services by taxi

Government agency oversight:

- Société de l'assurance automobile

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee chairman and vice-chairman (39th Legislature)

APPENDICES

ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO MEMBERS

Wage bill of Members	
Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$11,568,342

Other allowances	
Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for political activities	$2,824,575
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	$3,047,919
Travel from electoral division to the Parliament Building	$1,216,454
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,531,405
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture and office equipment during the first term of office	$125,122
Electoral division office operation expenses	$5,107,614

Other expenses	Members'	Office of Members	Total
Wage bill	$12,075,137	$7,040,824	$19,115,961
Travel expenses	$325,549	$453,167	$778,716
Research services of political parties			$3,014,722

MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCHES

The **Secretary General** is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and Members in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, administers day-to-day affairs and carries out all other duties assigned to him or her by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he or she is the secretary.

The **House Secretariat Directorate** prepares, provides for the orderly conduct of and follows up on Assembly sittings. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

The **Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate** advises the National Assembly in legal matters and provides all professional services relating to the drafting of private Members' public bills and private bills.

The **Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure** coordinates, plans, and supervises the activities of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his advisory role with respect to Assembly and committee proceedings. It provides professional expertise in the field of parliamentary case law and carries out studies in doctrine.

The **Library Directorate** is responsible for the preservation of parliamentary documents and the management and retrieval of archives. It maintains a collection meeting the needs of current and future users. It offers various reference, press documentation and research services to parliamentarians and to the administrative branches of the National Assembly.

The **Office Secretariat and General Secretariat Directorate** sees to the organization of and follows up on Office meetings and advises Members about their working conditions and the services that are available to them. It also assists the Secretary General in the day-to-day administration of his or her office, in addition to coordinating and carrying out institutional mandates and projects.

The **Committees Secretariat Directorate** provides all professional and administrative services required by parliamentary committees for the organization and conduct of their activities.

The **Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** provides all professional and technical services as regards the translation, revision, publishing and printing of legislative bills and answers the translation needs of other administrative branches.

The **Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information** plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the administrative and information sector directorates, in addition to providing all the related professional and technical services. It assists and advises the Secretary General in his or her role as manager of administrative affairs and with respect to digital information security.

The **Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate** coordinates the television broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and certain special events, the audio recording of proceedings and the production of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard), including all the related production activities (transcription, proofreading, editing and layout).

The **Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate** advises Assembly authorities and procures goods and provides services relating to the management and furnishing of buildings, and to telecommunications.

The **Computer Services Directorate** provides technical support to Assembly personnel, advises Assembly authorities and provides services in the area of computer and electronic office systems (software, applications, equipment, training). It also manages the computer population and the local area and wide area networks.

The **Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate** advises and provides services relating to financial management, budget preparation and accounting operations. It also dispenses procurement services.

The **Human Resources Directorate** is responsible for all activities and all support and advisory services relating to human resource management for the administrative branches and the Members. It also coordinates the implementation of human resource policies and programs.

The **Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate** provides support services to the parliamentarians and the administrative branches, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing and photocopying, office supply procurement and the distribution of parliamentary documents. It is also responsible for food services and the management of the restaurants.

The **Security Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on all security and safety measures and is responsible for the safety of persons and property as well as for the security of buildings and offices of the Assembly.

The **Directorate General for Information and Institutional Affairs** plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the communications, debates broadcasting and publishing, and educational programs directorates. It assists the Secretary General in his or her responsibilities for the outreach initiatives of the National Assembly. It also coordinated the activities planned for the 400th anniversary of Québec City.

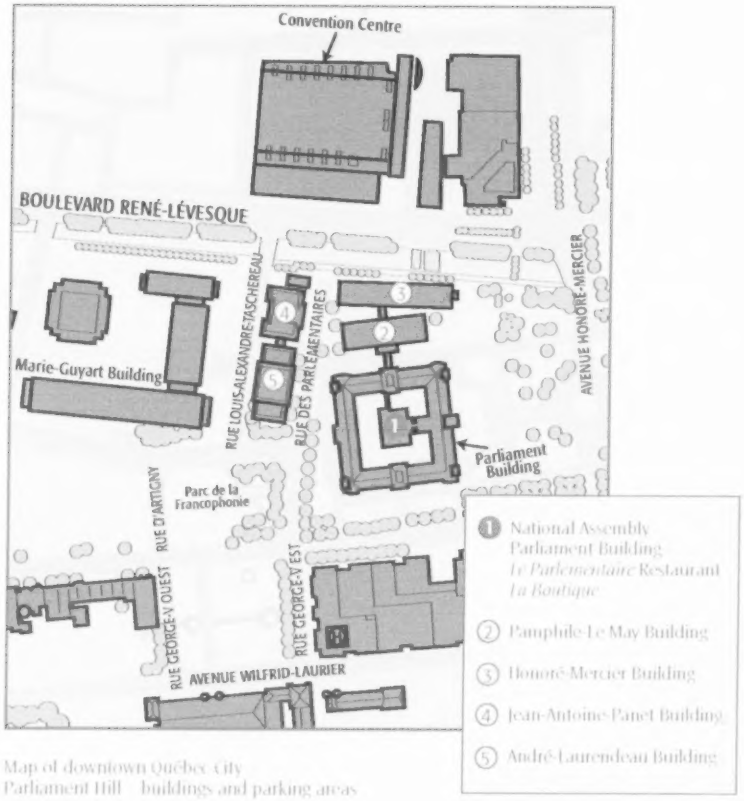
The **Communications Directorate** promotes outreach by informing the public on the democratic role of the National Assembly. It is responsible for the institution's communications and public relations. It provides graphic design, publishing, drafting and copyediting services as well as a media information service.

The **Educational Programs Directorate** coordinates the development, organization and carrying out of educational programs and materials for target clienteles and provides professional and technical support for the organization and conduct of parliamentary simulations.

The **Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the National Assembly in this area.

The **Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate** coordinates protocol activities and ceremonies at the National Assembly and is responsible for visitor and information services as well as for guided tours.

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION*



Map of downtown Québec City
Parliament Hill – buildings and parking areas

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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Québec City (Québec) G1A 1A3

General information
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Toll-free number: 1 866 DÉPUTÉS (1 866 337-8837)
Fax: 418 641-2638
www.assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Regular hours
Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours
24 June to 7 September:
Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 24 June, 1 July and 7 September, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reservations are required for groups of more than 10.

OUTDOOR GUIDED TOURS

24 June to 7 September:
Monday to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-7239
Fax: 418 646-4271
E-mail: guides@assnat.qc.ca

RESTAURANT *LE PARLEMENTAIRE*

Monday to Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations
Telephone: 418 643-6640
Fax: 418 643-6378

LA BOUTIQUE

Regular hours
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Summer hours
24 June to 7 September:
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-8708
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* Modifications without prior notice

Photocopying and Printing Services
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